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(IR45p) 40p



THE TABLOID Revealed! The people you love to hate



COMMENT Suzanne Moore: Diana and her genius for PR



THE TABLOID The film that's angered America

Sun sets on millennium vision



A buried dream: Tony Blair sent Michael Heseltine away empty-handed when he went to plead for the project at the site at Greenwich, above

Photograph: Brian Harris

EU confirms common tax plan

Brussels

The European Commission yesterday confirmed that, after monetary union, European member states may move towards a Europe-wide economic policy - which could include a common tax regime across the EU.

Yves Thibault de Silguy, the Economics Commissioner, is drawing up proposals for deeper economic integration among member states who join the single currency, a

Among the areas Mr de Silguy is examining are harmonisation of direct and indirect taxation, as well as the so-

cial security systems in member states. Asked if a future common Euro-pean income tax could be ruled out. the spokesman said: "No, I am unable to do so." Variation in current tax levels between member states creates "unfair compelition between tax systems," according to Commission

The initiative was disclosed after The Independent revealed that France and Germany want EU treaty changes at bility" to be applied to economic pol-

the Amsterdam summit in June to allow for the future creation of a single tax and social security regime. Both Bonn and Paris yesterday denied that they were tabling separate proposals for a joint taxation and social

security policies. However, according to a confiden-tial draft report on "flexible" decisionmaking, prepared by the secretary-general of the Council of

Ministers, Jurgen Trumpf, and shown to The Independent, a core alliance of member states are calling for "flexi-

states can forge ahead of other EU nations, and taxation and social securi-ty-are specifically mentioned as areas to which it should apply.

The Government was caught completely unprepared by the Independent report, to such an extent that the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, was required to brief the Cabinet on it.

One well-placed government source said he knew nothing of it, but it would be vetoed in any event - which is what leading the Tory Euro-sceptic MP John

icy-making under monetary union. Redwood demanded in the House dur-Flexibility is the idea that a group of ing Treasury questions. Financial Secing Treasury questions. Financial Sec-retary Michael Jack 10ld him: "That, I think, is a hypothetical question which you ask, for the very simple and straightforward reason that no such proposal, as you describe, exists,"

The Cahinet appeared to be less certain than Mr Jack, and frantic British efforts were ordered to track down the source and strength of what one minister described as the "very unhelpful" plans.

John Redwood, page17 Leading article, page15

Labour and Tories trade the blame

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

The £580m Millennium Exhibition looked doomed last night, with the Tories and Labour wrangling over who was to blame.

In an extraordinary and desperate attempt to save his cherished scheme for a huge dome at Greenwich. Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, went cap in hand to Tony Blair's offices at the House of Commons to beg Labour to give its sanction for the project. He was looking for a guarantee of an extra £200m in contingencies in addition to the £200m already promised by the Millennium

He left empty handed after what was described by Mr Blair's office as "an amicable meeting". The Labour leader stuck to the line set out by Jack Cunningham, sbadow National Heritage secretary, to the ef-fect that Labour, while supporting the scheme, would not allow any extra money to be earmarked for the exhibition.

Mr Cunningham admitted that the existing grandiose project for a huge dome housing a dozen pavilions on the theme of might not go ahead without Labour's immediate agreement. He raised the prospect of a more modest project on the re-claimed Greenwich site, although Mr Heseltine is likely to make a lastditch attempt to rescue his pet scheme with further negotia-

d possible alterations. The Government had wanted to issue a joint declaration with the Opposition over the future of the scheme but Labour wanted to add a paragraph to the effect that it reserved the right to review it after the election if it won and that there should be a limit to the budget.

Labour's co-operation is essential because private sponsors. which are expected to contribute up to £150m, will not

political certainty is removed. Government sources and Millennium Central, which is to organise the exhibition, argue that the project cannot go ahead unless Labour agrees to underwrite the contingency, estimated at between £145m and £219m, in addition to the £580m budget, for bad weather or cost

overruns. Simon Jenkins, chairman of the Millennium Commission's exhibition sub-committee, said the exhibition would have to be cancelled if the organisers had to wait until after the election for the go-ahead. "We can't have hanging over this project the pos-sibility that in four months it will he cancelled," he warned Labour. He said contracts needed to be signed and 50 staff were

waiting to start work. A spokesman for Millennium Central also criucised Lahour. saying: "It's time Labour came clean. If they are against the project, they should admit it and

The Government's majority was wiped out yesterday with the death of lain Mills, 56, the MP for Meriden -reducing its voting strength to 322 against the combined Opposition's 323. Mr Mills had a majority of 14,699. Two by-elections are now pending in Tory seats. Report, page 2

refuse to back it. Instead they are trying to kill it of getting the blame."

Mr Cunningham said Labour Government's failure to produce a coherent project.

He issued a chronology of meetings and conversations he has had with the organisers and Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, and said: "Ever since October, I have been told I must sign this statement now or the scheme

QUICKLY

Police Bill retreat

The Home Secretary, Micbael Howard has backed down over controversial proposals on police surveillance operations under the Police Bill in the face of almost certain defeat in the

Evans to leave BBC Chris Evans, the anarchic and highly paid broadcaster who revitalised Radio One's ratings with his breakfast show, resigned from the BBC. Page 2

HEN YOU MERCURY IARTCALL

Clegg appeal
Lee Clegg, the paratrooper released from prison after serving
two years for the murder of a Belfast teenage joyrider, is to have his case heard by the Court of Appeal.

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TV & Radio ...

And now, for a change, good news to prove that people have a heart

Tales of rags to riches, and in one case rags to partiamentary contender, surfaced yesterday as evidence that the Good Samaritan is still alive and well and living in both Cirencester and London's Kings Road.
As the political debate over

how to treat Britain's haves and have-nots continues, an old fashioned story emerged of how a beauty queen turned matriarchal aristocrat, Lady Apsley, had rescued a homeless man - and his Alsatian dog. The man, Oliver Lomasney,

25, and the dog, Ryan, were of-ten noticed in by Lady Apsley as the two sat together in the streets of Cirencester wrapped pathetically in ragged blankers. Lady Apsley, who lives on the nearby £30m family estate, always gave him a pound as she passed, but the gesture never seemed not enough. Curiously,





Good Samaritan: Lady Apsley, and Oliver Lomasney with RyanPhotographs: Bruce Seabrook

Home Office minister, David some cash, Lady Apsley in-Maclean, Mr Lomasney was not stead used her influence and Maclean, Mr Lomasney was not aggressive nor Scottish.

After talking and finding him well mannered, she went into action. Not exactly in line with Baroness Thatcher's wisdom

contacts at an engineering firm to pull the man to safety.

Lady Apsley, 31, said: "I think the fact that I am titled and live in a big house makes tramps and ladies do mix is the that the Good Samaritan was it even more important for me and against the belief of the only effective because he had to help someone in his posi- Smith, who yesterday an- of homeless people."

tion." Mr Lomasney was yesterday working on the Cirencester bypass. "I was very surprised that she even took the time to talk to me let alone help." Changing the perception that

aim of former tramp, Stephen

House of Commons. If he wins the Wirral South by-election where he standing as the Justice Party candidate, he says he will offer his services to both Conservative or Labour as their Minister of the Gutter. Mr Smith. 53, homeless on

the streets of London for five years in the 1970s, said his decision was influenced by the current debate over beggars. Mr Smith's own Lady Apsley

was a 24-year-old German tourist. She saw him begging in the King's Road when he was extremely ill. They spoke and eventually married. "Meeting Hannelore [bis wife] trans-formed my life," he said as he attacked Mr Maclean's comment that people chose a life of begging. "How can people be on the streets out of choice. That's a diabolical statement. I think it's time somebody stood up and made a noise about the number

Capitalism threatens freedom, says Soros

David Usborne

New York

When George Soros speaks, the world's markets listen. This time, though, they may not believe what they hear, Mr Soros is proclaiming that capitalism and its system of speculative trading - the same system that has brought him billions - has supplanted Communism as the principlc threat to freedom. It is a stunning conversion from the

man who has long been viewed as the mining social values of morality and re-Midas of the currency markets. His extraordinary success was vividly demonstrated in 1992 when bets he made on the pound knocked Britain's currency out of the European exchange rate

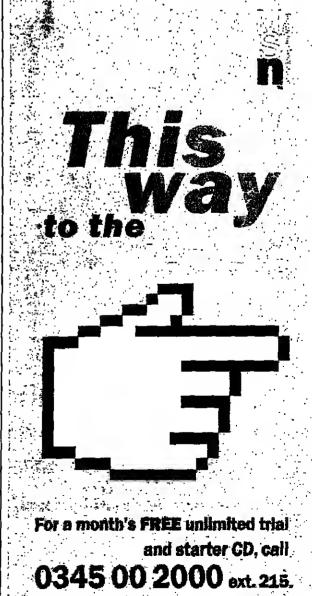
The new Soros docurine is laid out in a 7,000 article in the magazine, Atlantic Monthly. Entitled "The Capitalist Threat", it argues that worship of "the magic of the marketplace' is under-

sponsibility and risks giving rise to extremist political leaders. "The arch enemy of an open society

is no longer the Communist threat but the capitalist one." Mr Soros writes in the article. "It is wrong to make 'survival of the fittest' a leading principle in a civilised society". He argues that inequality is rampant because "laissez-faire ideology has effectively banished income-or wealth-redistribution".

Mr Soros goes on: "I have made fortune on the international financial markets, and yet I now fear that the untrammelled intensification of laissez-faire capitalism and the spread of market values into all areas of life is endangering our open and democratic society".

Mr Soros's own fortune is worth about £6bn. But since 1979 he has been channelling part of his wealth to prodemocracy causes through his own Open Society Foundation.



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VAT's the story about the price of bananas

Yesterday I received a press release entitled "Conservative Party News". BANANAS FOR BROWN, was the heading, and it purported to be a statement from the Thatcherite intellectual MP. Alan Duncan. It went on. "Here is a

hunch of bananas for Gordon Brown, who has made a complete monkey of himself with this disgraceful lie and smear lie over putative Tory plans to levy VAT on food]. Labour is desperately trying to cover up for the fact that they have £30bn of spending pledges and don't know where the money is coming from". Unfortunately no bananas were attached to the press release. Yet another broken Tory promise? Labour would say so. All



Labour members are beginning to enjoy having a leader who does not fall in the sea or wear silly hats

BBC parts company

with loosest cannon

leaves Radio 1 show

as Chris Evans

their efforts were bent towards making their new "nightmare fifth Tory term" charge stick; all Tory ones to painting a picture of current plenitude and past disaster. In the heat and smoke of this mock battle, concepts such as information, accountability. argument and resolution stood little chance.

The day had "started in the gutter", argued Treasury minister, Michael Jack. But the game was given away by his colleague, Philip Oppenheim, answering yet another query about VAI. Labour's campaign was "so silly, so catty, it makes demon eyes look positively cerebral, quite spiritual, in comparison". Oh yes It was left to yet another

Treasury fronthencher,

high taxation levels on a Angela Knight, to do most of previous government, "We the Tory cheerleading. Ms have the lowest personal Knight resembles nothing so much as the principal hoy in a Liberals came into the war village pantomime, with a lean and muscular frame, the the war by borrowing." he haircut of a 70s male rockcharged. The Tories star and a ruthless way of dealing with the poetry of her it through VAT on clogs. This nonsense was still brief. Her flat tones rolled out the stats and the claims

along her boyish thighs. Tourism was booming. "Blackpool", she averred, bas more tourists than Portugal and more hotel heds than Greece". I was just wondering how it was that Greece did not close down every time it hosted a party conference, when William Waldegrave helpfully hlamed

relentiessness, as ber hand adjusted the ride of her skirt

with machine-gun

taxation since 1915. Then the cabinet and started to finance presumably would have funded

raging when the Prime Minister entered the Chamber to cheerful cries of where's the 'at?" from Labour members, who are beginning to enjoy having a leader who does not fall into the sea or wear silly 'ats. Question one, from Labour's William O'Brien, was about VAT. Had not the Prime Minister promised not to put VAT on fuel - and then put VAT on fuel? Mr Major

blustered. Tony Blair asked the same question three times. Thrice Mr Major stonewalled, but this will avail him nothing since, earlier, Labour's Alastair Darling triumphantly claimed to have incriminating film of the Prime Minister and the Chancellor together, discussing VAT on food. The Prime Minister

referred two other VAT inquiries to the answer he hadn't given several times. hut by now the assaults were like firing siege catapults at flattened walls. Thus it is that, 18 years after "Labour isn't working", the Conservatives are finally reaping what they then sowed. I went off to commission a poster featuring Mr Duncan, under the slogan Yes, we have no bananas".

significant shorts

Launch a

private royal

Plans to replace the royal

yacht Britannia with a private

vessel funded by banks are

campaigners against the decommissioning of the boat.

for its final voyage last night,

Lord Ashbourne, chairman

of the all-party royal yacht

group, said the group was still hoping the Government would decide to pay the

£80m cost of replacing her. However, Lord Ashbourne

said he was beginning to feel that the only way forward

As the Britannia prepared

being drawn up by

Missing girl linked to bloody clothing yacht, says peer

Hopes faded last night for the missing schoolgirl Zoe Evans as forensic scientists examined blood-stained clothing found during a massive police search.

Detectives believe the stains match the nine-yearold's blood group, aithough confirmation of DNA tests are still awaited.

The clothing of a young girl as well as a bloodied garment belonging to a man were discovered during searches near Zoe's home Warminster, Wiltshire.

Over 200 soldiers hased nearby joined police to re-check woodland and undergrowth close to where the dark-haired girl was last seen on Saturday with a blond shaven-headed young man.

Twist in

Jewish feud

£5m per year, compared with £10m for the Britannia, Fran

The hitter feuding between Orthodox and reform Jews has taken a hizarre twist after the Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, refused to pull out of a tribute to the late Rabbi as part of an effort to regenter opens in Belfast today as part of an effort to regenter opens. tribute to the late Rabbi

Hugo Gryn.
Dr Sacks, who is chosen by
the Orthodox, tried to defuse the row by saying he would only be taking part in next month's meeting because of Rahbi Gryn's important . inter-faith work. But furious Orthodox leaders say Dr Sacks is giving credence to the position of Rabbi Gryn, a reformist who was one of the most respected Jewish leaders in the country. Andrew Brown

Booth in court teacher clash

Government lawyers are set to clash in the High Court with Cherie Booth QC, wife of Labour leader Tony Blair, after a teaching union's successful hid to challeoge a clampdown on teachers' early retirement.

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers, represented by Ms Booth, yesterday won permission from a High Court judge for a hearing over their claim that government guidance aimed at blocking a stampede about one sixth of the of departing teachers is unlawful. Lucy Ward

might be to try for a "privatised" royal yacht. It could be built and then leased back to the state for 20 years. The running costs for the new boat could be

Belfast works on its waterfront

erate the Victorian city. The launch of the circular huilding, known as the Wa-terfront Hall, will he marked over the new few weeks with appearances of local artists such as Kenneth Branagh, Van Morrison, Barry Douglas. James Galway and Sinead O'Connor, as well as

Ayckbourn faces fresh theatre cuts

international guests. David

McKittrick

The Scarborough theatre run by Sir Alan Ayckbourn is being threatened with a cut again from local politicians just weeks after the "luvvic. or lavvies" row.

Sir Alan won the battle to stop Scarborough council cutting its funding by £50,000 of the Stephen Joseph Theatre-In-The-Round.

But now an even bigger cut is threatened by North Yorkshire County Council. It is to debate terminating its £70,500 grant to the theatre. Stephen Joseph's regular public funding.

And it's goodbye from him: Chris Evans told Radio 1 he wanted to be given every Friday off. Now he has the whole week

his company Ginger Productions £1.4m to produce the breakfast show. He drew an extra 600,000 listeners, attracting a total of over 7 million but the techniques he employed made his bosses increasingly nervous. He once missed a show be-

vision work. He also runs his own production company. But behind the end of Evans's

relationship with Radio 1 lies

more than a simple demand for

time off. As with the case of

Kenny Everett a quarter of a

century ago, Radio 1 hired an

inventive and anarchic broad-

caster to help boost its ratings

with young listeners, and then

found to its chagrin that it too

became a target of the on-air ir-

it was in the doldrums. It paid

When Evans joined Radio 1,

reverence and satire.

salary on air, he negotiated a ed many of his listeners "thick." doubling of holiday entitlement to 12 weeks and a later start for hind a current Channel 4 cult cause of a hangover (and was hit TFI Friday, which explains his need to devote Fridays to teleneed to the show; he threatened to hit hough the said. "How ungrateful is this mode at teleneed to he show; he threatened to hit hough the said. "How ungrateful is this mode at teleneed to devote Fridays to teleneed to telenee

More than 30 complaints about Evans were upheld by

ticked him off, Evans respond-ed on air. "We were talking to the boss, the Pat Controller," he said. "How ungrateful is this

ter - he was out on his ear." Mr Bannister said last night: *Chris is an enormously talented broadcaster who has made a tremendous contribu-

MP's death ends Tory majority

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

David Lister

Arts News Editor

The BBC and its most unpre-

dictable presenter decided to

part company yesterday. Chris

Evans the millionaire, anar-

chic broadcaster who helped re-

vitalise the fortunes of Radio 1

in his two years with the station,

Evans had told Radio 1 con-

troller Matthew Bannister he

wanted every Friday off, an

unprecedented demand by a

presenter of the all important

hreakfast show. Mr Bannister

told Evans that it did not fit in

with his plans for the station's

schedule, and Evans will leave

Evans, a former presenter of Channel 4's The Big Breakfast.

hosts and is the driving force be-

at the end of March.

has handed in his notice.

The Government's Commons majority was wiped out yesterday with the death of the Conservative MP for Meriden, lain

Having already lost its technical majority through the disaffection of backbencher Sir John Gorst - who is continuing his non-cooperation protest against the closure of the accident and emergency depart-ment of a local hospital - the

Government's strength in the House was reduced to 322 votes by Mr Mills' death, against 323 for the combined opposition

While the formal move into minority will have no immediate impact, it adds to government difficulties and will further sap Conservative morale at Westminster. Tory MPs are already facing the prospect of a Labour war of attrition in the Commons, through the withdrawal of cooperative "pairing" arrangements, which means

"What's really painful is not being

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or fill in the coupon for a no-obligation quote.

covered by my health insurance."

stant stand-by for opposition ambush.

The Government's frustration was illustrated by a series of votes on the Crime (Sentences) Bill on Wednesday night, when a handful of Liberal Democrats forced more than 200 Conservative MPs to remain in the Commons - even though Labour Chief Whip Donald Dewar had told his MPs that they would not be required to stay. But the real problems could

incredibly, some don't give you full cover for basics like

specialist consultations and

Primecare, from Prime

Health offers all this cover

and much more - at a price

that's equivalent to some

claims discount of up to 50%.

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your policy compares to

Prime Health

that they have to remain on con- come on the critical committee stages of legislation like the Finance Bill, which implements the Budget.

As The Independent reported yesterday, no agreement has been reached between the Goverament and Opposition about the composition of the Finance Bill Committee, for which the Opposition is arguing there should now be an even balance between the two sides, and no government majority. If that question cannot be re-

solved by negotiation by next week, then it might well have to be resolved by a vote of the whole House - and Mr Mills's death could mean defeat for the

An even balance on legislaive committees means that the Government could not carry its own amendments because, in the event of a tie, the chair by convention easts its vote for the



Government's majority

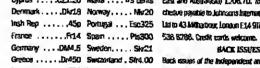
status quo. Meanwhile, Number 10 appeared determined to soldier on, and the record of the last Labour government showed there is no reason why that should not continue. The 1974-79 Labour regime

suffered 42 Commons defeats

before it was ousted in March Although there were few details available on the death of

Mr Mills, whose body was discovered yesterday at his London flat government whips had been concerned that he was one of four MPs missing from Tuesday's vote on the second reading of the Finance Bill. One government source said he had heen missing without permission, even though he had often been off sick before. He was described by one source as "a

heart attack waiting to happen". The 56-year-old MP, a former parliamentary aide to Norman Tebhit. had a 14.699 vote majority in Meriden at the 1992 general election, and had represented the constituency since 1979. A by election will he overtaken by the general election, even if that does not take place until 1 May.



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THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

BACK ISSUES



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

British come bottom in the numbers game

Education Correspondent

Britain came bottom in an international numeracy study of adults in seven industrialised countries, heightening concern over flagging basic skills.
The Government-backed

survey, published yesterday, found Britons struggled to perform tasks such as multiplying 6 by 21 and subtracting 1.78 from 5. Only one in five British adults managed to answer all 12 questions correctly, compared with nearly half those tested in Japan, which topped the table. The UK also lagged behind France, Halland, Den-

mark, Sweden, and Australia. The study, commissinged by the Basic Skills Agency, also revealed Britons were far more likely than adults in other countries to flee at the very thought of a maths test.

Out of a representative sample asked in complete the pen and paper tasks in each country, one in eight in the UK refused even in look at the tests, Elsewhere, virtually all those asked to take part did so.

Evidence that the British are poor at maths comes a week after annther international study showed the nation

is also falling behind badly no literacy standards. Research in 14 countries by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development revealed nearly half of adults in the UK lack the literacy skills needed to cope with life, such as understanding a bus timetable.

Both main political parties are vying to put higher basic skills standards at the centre of their electinn campaigns. Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, will announce injtiatives to boost literacy and numeracy levels among recent school leavers later this mouth, while Labour will unveil details of plans to improve primary pupils' reading skills. The Basic Skills Agency an-

meracy study was accompanied by research showing how poor maths skills can damage employment prospects. Academics at London's City University who have been mnn-

ment's plans. itoring the lives of 1,700 people born in 1958, found just under a quarter had "very low nu-meracy skills", making every-day tasks difficult. Men with poor numeracy were more prone to unemplayment, while women were more likely to be in part-time inhs.

Police surveillance plans to be checked

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

The Government has been forced to retreat over controversial proposals on police surveillance operations. Home Office ministers began making changes last night to the Police Bill, hoping to aven an almost certain defeat in the House of Lords on Monday.

The move came after Labour, which had originally backed Michael Howard's plans to allow extensive surveillance without a warrant, changed its stance in the face of fierce protests from the legal profession. If the Home Secretary had not backed down his team would have been exposed to a hostile alliance of opposition

peers and law lords. Last night an amicable resolution again looked more likely, even though the moves did not appear to be enough to satisfy the Bar Council, one of the leading critics of the Govern-

Amendments due to be tabled today will ensure that the security commissioner who oversees the surveillance operations is notified of them by the police as soon as is practically possible. The Independent understands. They will also allow the commissioner to quash ap-

plications even where there have been no complaints. Changes which had been

tabled last night will also provide extra protection for professionals such as lawyers and journalists who keep confidential files. The Prime Minister would decide how many commissioners should be appointed - the Bill had provided for only one but Labour wants at

6 This kind of protection is necessary if the public are to be protected 9

Labour's changes go further than those tabled by the Government, though, and there may still be a right vote on the issue when the Bill reaches the Lords on Monday. The opposition party wants the commissioners to give prior consent for all surveillance operations unless time constraints make this impossible. Labour also wants

lawyers, journalists and doctors to be protected from surveil lance unless there is evidence that they are involved in criminal activity, while the Government is content simply that the commissioner should see any plans within 48 hours.

Labour also wants a tighter definition of the "serious crime" which can trigger a covert police operation under the Bill. Last night Labour's home affairs spokesman, Jack Straw, said he was not ready to com-

ment on the Government's proposals until he had seen them. Although civil liberties should be protected, crime must be tackled effectively, he said. "This kind of surveillance is

necessary if the public are to be protected from ruthless criminals. Our amendments, if accepted, will ensure that the police have the powers which they need," he said.

However, the chairman of the Bar Council, Robert Owen QC. said he did not believe the Government's changes went far enough. He predicted that the issues would still be hotly debated in the House of Lords'

"This does not seem to meet the fundamental points about prior authorisation and the full protection of legal professional privilege," he said.

People

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ificant shorts

Launch a private royal hing yacht, says pe Plans to replace the row yacht Britannia with a provided by hanks & drawn un by Zoe-

being drawn up by campaigners against the decommissioning of the As the Britannia professor its final voyage law tord Ashbourne, chains of the all-party royal sac group, said the group to hoping the Government would decide to pay the

£80m cost of replacing by However, Lord Ashba said he was beginning to that the only way inner might be to try for a "privatised" royal vacht could be built and then leased back to the state is 20 years. The running on for the new hoar could be £5m per year, compared, £10m for the Britainia h

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Ayckbourn faces fresh theatre cuts

ash The Scarborough theater by Sir Alan Ayckbourn s rs are set Court being threatened with a a OC, wrie again from local politicae ony Blair, just weeks after the "love". I or layyies" row. allenge a Sir Alan won the battlet

stop Searborough council cutting its funding by £500 of the Stephen Joseph Theatre-In-The-Round. But now an even bigger. is threatened by North

Yorkshire County Council! is to debate terminating is £70,500 grant to the theam Stephen Joseph's regular public funding.

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the problem," he told Lon don's LBC Radio.

"I think people genuinely like feeling like that. That's why they go out and that's why they do it." ins coss na scannach and amental points and the first state of the first

Ford puts Liverpool on road to nowhere

David Garfinkel A dark cloud hung over Mersey-



Something for everyone: (From top) The Escort in its 1968 incarnation; the '75 model; the XR3; and the latest model, to be built in Germany or Spain





People's car loses its grip

Michael Harrison ·

It is a post war motoring phenomenon to rank along-side the VW Beetle, the Mini and the Fiat Uno. It is driven by princesses, travelling salesmen and boy racers allke. It is in its 30th year and its fifth incamation. In short, it is one of that rare breed - a people's car. Until yesterday, the Ford Escort was also part of the lifeblood of Merseyside.

When the sixth generation Escort appears on British roads in 1998 or 1999 it will have been built not on Merseyside but in Spain or Germany. Ford says the ducing the car in three different locations. But the death of Escort production in Britain is at least as much due to changing markets, consumer tastes and Indifferent response to the latest version of the car.

Since the Escort was launched in 1968, worldwide sales have reached nearly 18 million - of which 3.8 million have been sold in Britain. Even Diana, Princess of Wales, once owned one.

The first Escort produced in Britain went from 0-60mph in a stately 22.3 seconds and did a top speed of 79mph. The latest 1.8 fuel injection 2-door cabriolet reaches 60mph in 10 seconds and has a top speed of 120mph. But sales have been slipping as motorists be-gan demanding something different – a 4x4, or a people carrier, or a small, concept car – and company fleets no longer insisted on buying British. Ford did not help senti-ment with its latest redesign of the Escort. In April 1995, the Escort came bottom in a car satisfaction survey from US marketing information company JD Power.

in the late 1980s, the Escort commanded a tenth of the British car market. Last year 129,000 Escorts were sold in Britain - a market share of just 6 per cent. This was partly the result of Ford quitting the rental market, but it was also due to car-buyers opting for something a little more exotic and usually imported. Garel Rhys, professor of motor industry economics

at Cardiff University Business School says: "The problem for Ford is that nowadays consumers want a broader choice - offroad and multi-purpose vehicles for instance – which means it is much harder to keep up large sales volumes of Individual models. There is a variety on the forecourts now the like of which we have not seen since the 1920s."

Gloom at Halewood plant as company cuts a third of workforce

Michael Harrison and

side yesterday as workers at Ford's Halewood plant waited to see if they would still have their jobs at the cod of the day. The official announcement that one-third of the workforce

would be made redundant cast

serious doubts over the plant's future, which has been building the Escort for almost 30 years. Union leaders said that they would fight Ford's decision to move the manufacture of the car to Spain and Germany. They believed a stand had to be

rope to dump labour. But Halewood's workforce and the local community have heard it all before, and they are

taken as Britain was rapidly be-

coming the easiest place in Eu-

weary of fighting.

Dave Kelly is 35 and has worked on the factory's production line for eight years. Yesterday's confirmation that 1,300 jobs are to go was an awful echo from the past: "I've been made redundant seven times since I started work. How can you live

"We have been through it so many times, the community suffered a lot in 1977 when the Triumph TR7 plant was closed and now it appears it's hap-pening again," he said.

Mr Kelly, who is married and a has a five-year-old son, said that if the factory goes so will a part of Merseyside. There is no security any more. Today they say 1,300, tomorrow it could be more."

The announcement was followed by a furious row in the Commons over a comment by the Chancellor, Kenoeth Clarke, who said "You can't win them all", and warnings that Ford's "body blow" to the regioo could culminate in the complete closure of the plact.

The Prime Minister sought to defuse the row, describing Ford's decision to axe onethird of the workforce as "very surprising". John Major added that the move "flics in the face of most investment decisions which are moving to the UK".

spokesman, Alan Milburn, had pressed the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Angela Knight, about Mr Clarke's remark, made during an interview on Sky TV. "How can you defend this complacency when the loss of quality manufacturing employment is such a devastating blow. oot just to the North West but to the whole of the British economy?" Mr Milburn asked.

The curbacks could meao Ford having to import an extra 125,000 cars, worseoing the motor industry's trade deficit which is estimated to have reached £5bo in 1995.

Last night national union officials and senior shop stewards from Ford's 20 United Kingdom plants "totally rejected" the decision to scale back the Hale-wood workforce and concentrate production of the new Escort io Germany and Spain.

Mass meetings will be held at all the Ford plants, including Dagenham in Essex, Southamptoo, Belfast and Bridgend and Swansea in South Wales over the next week to decide whether a full strike ballot will be held. Ford sought to soften the

hlow by pledging that there would be no compulsory redundancies and announcing plans to build a new vehicle at Halewood "subject to appropriate product and investment Diane Coyle

approvals and to competitive levels of performance being achieved". The new vehicle is expected to be a small "people carrier" based oo the platform of the new Escort. The company said that the plan was to start maoufacture in 2000 but it would give no production or

lo the meantime the Halewood plant will go down to a single shift producing a maximum of 145,000 cars a year against 153,000 in 1996 with a workforce of 3,000.

employment figures.

Striking may not seem a realistic option for a majority of the plant's workforce, since it is unlikely that the other plants would support them with only 1,300 jobs threatened. But for employees did not rule out it

our yesterday. Welder James Hayden, 44, said he would consider anything to protect his job because there arc so few employment oppor-tunities available in the rest of Liverpool. "When I told my wife the oews last night she was devastated. I doo't think we would be able to survive on her income alone" he said. "I feel sorry for the people of Speake because there is nothing here for them aovmore.

Liverpool's unemployment rate is 11.5 per cent compared with the national average of 6.7 per cent. As many as one in three people are out of work in Speake, the large council estate where many of the Haiewood workers live.

The estate opposite the plant is already rundown, with walls covered in graffiti and windows boarded up. Nicky McDonagh. 24, who lives there, said it was a terrible place with no future, and now things would get worse. "It is what we have come to expect over the years. The bank and suand soon there'll be nothing".

Job gains outweigh losses Britain, he said, was "the soft announced new jobs in the UK. But he said the ease of hiring

Economics Editor

"You can't win them all," Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said of Ford's

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But union leaders were swift to blame the move on the fact that the flexibility of the labour market, so prized by the Government, had exposed Britain

to "social dumping". Larry Brooke, national automotive secretary for the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, said: "The Government often applauds its socalled inward investment policies but stands idly by when companies outward invest jobs

underbelly for any further cutbacks and closures. However Ian Lang, President

of the Board of Trade, said inward investment had created hundreds of thousands of jobs, including 83,000 on Merseys since 1979. He insisted that the balance between employees' rights and employers' freedom was now about right.

A survey by The Independent of job losses and gains during the past six months found that more than 14,000 new jobs have been created in the car and components industry, far outweighing the losses.

Nissan, Honda, Rover, General Motors and Renault are to other parts of the world." among the companies to have

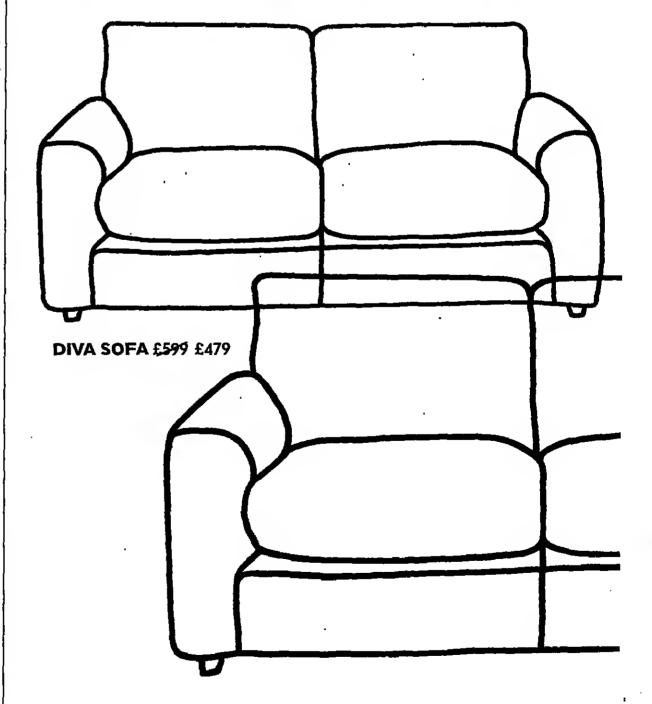
The losses have been confined to Ford - which announced in September that 1,000 jobs would go - and at automotive components maker Lucas after its merger with Varity.

In recent months, most joh losses have been concentrated in financial services and in the privatised utilities. Service secfor companies soch as the Mc-Donald's burger chain and Marks & Spencer, along with Japan's Sony, and Hyundal of Korea, have announced hig employment programmes.

It is true that the attractiveness of the UK as a place to invest has created jobs," said Professor Charles Bean of the London School of Economics. and firing was less important in attracting companies to Britain than low wages, low taxes and the emasculation of the trades unions.

Professor Bean added that it was clearly easier to sack workers in the UK than in Germany and Spain, where other Ford plants have retained all their

The level of overseas investment in the UK had reached £132,3bn by the end of 1995, with another £14.7bn flowing in during the first three quarters of last year. Typically, around half of inward investment involves huilding new plants rather than taking over



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Storm after East 17 singer endorses use of ecstasy

Singer Brian Harvey of the pop group East 17 apologised yes-terday after he prompted a storm of criticism by appearing to coodone the use of ecstasy.

he was not reguly to co.

Records and appearances by the group were banned across on the Government sprottine country after the singer and until he had seen the twith the chart-tonning across the Assembly crime might claimed in a radio in the singer

Char annualments. If pointicians and anti-drugs cambridge that the paigners, he claimed he had taken the powers the character than the powers the then driven. "Really in the long he said."

The character the character than the driven and it aims the character the character than the driven. "Really in the long than the character the character than the ch

to concentrate ecough to drive Pared to when he had driven if you bang one, you go out, you mons that he regarded asy



Brian Harvey yesterday: 'It was stupid of me to spout off'

home completely drunk and had been less safe. He said: "When people want to do." He said he I was on a pill driving home, it was different, man, I was at the right speed limit and the car was going fine, you know what I

Referring to the night where he claimed to have taken 12 tablets, he said: "The thing is -

was not encouraging the use of the drug, but added: "If it makes you feel better and gives you something to do at the weekend and you go out and have a good time, I don't see why not, man,

because life's too short."

John Major told the Com-

comments suggesting ecstasy was safe as "wholly wrong". "Drug taking, any drug taking, leads to hard drugs and we have often seen, ends in tragedy." As the protest gained momentum, the group were banned from appearing oo a network television programme and from

radio stations around Britain, with one DJ having to remove a track mid-play due to telephone protests. A spokeswoman said listeners had swamped telephone lines to complain after the comments were broadcast oo news bulletins. Carlton Television said a pre-

recorded interview due 10 be shown oo Saturday's flagship children's show had been dropped "as a protest against the comments made about the use of drugs".

Last night, Harvey apolo-gised for his remarks. "It was really stupid of me to spout off," he said. "Without knowing any facts, I now realise that I was being very irresponsible and I would like to apologise as I've obviously caused offence."



Golden memories: Terry Moore, aged 79, visiting Brighton's derefict West Pier yesterday for the first time in 35 years. The pier was closed on safety grounds 22 years ago, but is being restored with lottery money, and has recently reopened for special guided tours Photograph: Andrew Hasson

Goalkeeper got £104,000 after series of defeats'

Michael Streeter

Former Wimbledon goalkeeper Hans Segers received £104,000 in seven different cash payments after a dozen games in which his team lost, a court

beard yesterday. The money, allegedly from a Far Eastern syndicate betting on the outcome of the games, was paid into a Swiss bank account called Gloves 1. a jury at Winchester Crown Court was told.

David Calvert Smith. QC. for prosecution, said one paymeot of £19,000 came after a crucial relegation game in which Ever-ton beat Wimbledon 3-2 on 7 May 1994. The result kept Everton in the Premier League. He added that the former Wimbledon player and star of tele-

nts totalling £61,000, before his transfer to Astoo VIIIa. Mr Segers, 34 - who with Mr

Fashanu and ex-Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar is charged with trying to influence the results of football matches had been in regular tele-

phone contact before and after the 12 games with the fourth defendant Heng Suan Lim, Mr Calvert Smith said. Malaysian born Mr Lim, 31, is said to have received more than £500,000 from the Indonesian syndicate

over a four-year period.

The court was told that on 8 November 1993, Mr Segers and Mr Fashanu had paid some of the cash into the same branch of the Republic Bank of New York in Berkeley Square, Londoo within three minutes of each other. Mobile phone records suggested Mr Lim had been in the area at the time.

Mr Calvert Smith said the seven payments to Mr Segers took place during 1993-94 season and at the start of the 1994-95 season in sums of £6,000, £14,000, £11,000, £15,000, £20,000 and two payments of £19,000. All took place after Wimbledon defeats, including a string of four losses in October 1994, Mr Calvert Smith added.

visioo show Gladiators, John There was oo evidence for Mr Fashanu, also received two pay-Segers' claims that the money came from crimes committed in his his youth and the payments stopped at the time The Sun newspaper "exposed" allega-tions of match-fixing in No. vember 1994.

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The newspaper's allegations relied heavily on the claims of Chris Vincent, a former business partner of Mr Grobbelaar, who is due to give evidence on Monday, said Mr Calvert Smith.

The prosecution said telephone records showed contact before and after games between Mr Grobbelaar, Mr Fasham and Mr Lim and Mr Segers, Mr Fashanu and Mr Lim. The last two were also in regular contact with Indonesia, in particular two people called Johannes Josef and his partner Elly, from whose bank accounts the mon-

ey for the players allegedly came. Mr Fashnnu, Mr Grobbelaar and Mr Lim deny giving and receiving mooey in a con-spiracy to influence the results of games, or as a reward for influencing games. Mr Fashanu, Mr Lim and Mr Segers deny a similar charge. Mr Grobbelaar denies a separate charge of accepting £2,000 from Mr Vincent as a reward or inducement for influencing the result of a game,

Study will be key to pig transplants

Charles Arthur Science Editor

Research due to be published by next autumn could determine whether it is safe to transplant genetically engineered pigs' hearts

and kidneys into humans. The work, being led by Pro-fessor David Onions of the Glasgow Veterinary School, aims to see whether DNA in the pigs organs would manufacture Aids-like retroviruses which could be reproduced in humans with

unpredictable effects. The research is now underway in association with Camridge-based company Imutran, which bas hred genetically engineered pigs whose organs should not create the "hyperacute rejection" that a normal pig's tissue would in a human. "If the result is negative, then I would think we could go ahead with transplants," Pro-

fessor Onions said vesterday. But they would first have to overcome a series of regulatory and legal barriers set up yesterday by the Government with the publication of the Kennedy committee's report into "xenotransplantation".

The Government, responding to the report, yesterday announced a moratorium on xeootransplants because of fears expressed by the commit-tee of unleashing potentially devastating diseases comparable with Aids or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) on the human population. It appointed the former Archbishop of York, Lord Habgood of Calverton - a trained pharmacologist - to chair a new body, terim Regulatory Authority, to

police future developments. The Department of Health said that oew laws to govern xenotransplantation would be introduced as soon as possible. But that will almost certainly be after the general election. In the meantime, the Government has made it clear that emergency legislation would be brought in if necessary to halt human trials.



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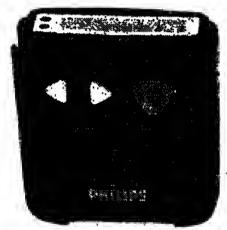
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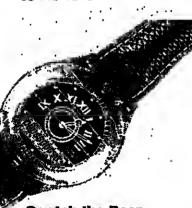


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Mr Fashanu, Mil laar and Mr Lim de and receiving money spiracy to influence to of games, or as a revan fluencing games, Mr. Mr Lim and Mr Sego similar charge. Mr Gi denies a separate chase cepting £2.000 from Mr. as a reward or induca



Stephen Goodwin Hentage Correspondent

High on the wooded slopes of Blotenge mountain in Gwent, British Waterways' engineers are working to prevent the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal bursting its embankmeol to send water cascading 70ft to the valley floor.

Some £1.5m is needed to stabilise the embankment and re-line the channel but British Waterways is facing a crisis, with a backlog of £100m of repairs urgently needed to the country's network.

Not just the canals and pleasure bouters are at risk. Any failure of Sut-ton Weir on the Weaver navigation in Cheshire, where "unexplained voids" have been detected beneath the sandstone barrier, could severely disrupt rail and road traffic, including on the M56. Repairs costing more than £1m are "imperative".

The one-and-a-half-mile stretch hugging the Blorenge at Llanfoist, near Abergavenny, has a long history of in-

Anger at

appeal



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Tunnel vision: A permanent solution is urgently needed to replace the temporary structure keeping a channel open on the Monmouth and Brecon canal at Llanfoist

breached and mud flowed round homes and blocked the valley road. The canal remained closed for six years before a concrete lining was put in.

But cracking was detected two years ago and the canal is now kept open by a temporary an ilicial channel just wide enough for pleasure craft stability. In 1975 the bank was to pass through, Constructed of steel es a threat to the safety of people on

frames and plywood with a plastic membrane, the 400ft "flume" is expected to last another 12 months but extensive work cannot be long delayed. Just before Christmaswater was

discovered leaking down the hillside. "We have now reached a stage where continued under-funding pos-

or near the waterways," David Fletcher, British Waterways' chief executive, said. Government grant to British Wa-

terways has been reduced in real terms by one-third over 12 years. This year's £5 lm is a shon fall of £7m on the minimum believed necessary to operate and maintain the late 18th- and car-

ly 19th-century network. Urgent talks are underway with the Department of Eovironment about funding.

The 35-mile-long Monmouthshire and Brecon canal was opened in 1812 and carried coal, limestone and iron to Newport, Today it is popular with pleasure boaters. There are

Britain's canals and another 1.500 holiday hire boats. A typical pleasureboat licence costs £360 a year

Only about 250 commercial boats still ply the canals and even this traffic is threatened by the repairs erisis. More than £350,000 worth of work needs to be done on a busy 22,000 privately owned craft using length of the Aire and Calder Nav-

igation in West Yorkshire used by up to 40 coal and oil boats every day. British Waterways generates an income of about £45m in addition to its grant, including £10m from property and £10.4m from leisure uses, It estimates 10 million people visit canals each year, including anglers

and townath walkers.

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The Givernmentice

Jason Bennetto venotransplants but tears expressed by their Crime Correspondent tee of unleashing por Lee Clegg, the paratrooper released from prison after servdevastating diseases on ble with Aids or brainer ing two years for the murder of form encephalopathy: a Belfast Icenage joyrider, is to have his case heard at the Court of Appeal - provoking outrage from the father of the dead woman and nationalists.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, announced the decision yesterday, six months after lawyers acting for the soldier sought the move. Clegg, 28, was

Clegg: Court will hear new evidence backing his case

convicted in 1993 of the mur-der in 1990 of Karen Reilly, 18, who was a passenger in a stoleo car at a road block in Belfast. The car was driven by a teenager called Martin Peake, who was ilso killed.

Clegg said at his trial in Belfast Crown Court that he fired three shots at a speeding joyrider's car as il came towards him and a fourth into the side of the vehicle as it was passing. He claimed that he fired all four shots because he thought the life of a colleague was in danger.

The prosecution claimed he fired into the back of the car after it had passed. Clegg's lawyers say they have new evidence that will show he did not fire into the back of the car.

Simon McKay, Clegg's legal representative, said the evidence not only cleared Clegg but identified which soldier fired the fatal shot. He refused to name the other soldier.

Clegg's earlier appeals against conviction to the Court of Appeal and House of Lords were dismissed. He was freed on licence in July 1995, a move which triggered widespread rioting in nationalist areas of Northern Ireland. A year later, his solicitors applied to have the case referred to the Northern

Ireland Court of Appeal. Karen Reilly's father, Sean, described vesterday's an-nouncement as "ludicrous". He said: "This guy snatched our daughter away from us and as far as we are concerned he should still be in prison. If he goes to the Court of Appeal I just hope the judge will realise and send him back there."

He added: "We thought it was all over, we thought there were no more surprises and the guy has come up with this. We are just shocked and bitter and very, very angry." There are also concerns that

the announcement could lead to further rioting in Ulster. Alex Attwood, SDLP councillor for Upper Falls, Belfast, where the shooting occurred, accused the Government of having one rule for Clegg and one for others waiting to bave appeals heard in cases of miscarriages of justice.

Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams said: "The decision once again highlights the manner in which the British government legitimises and protects members of the Crown forces who kill Irish civilians."

The Northern Ireland Office said "that the material submitted justifies referral of the case*. Since leaving prison Clegg has been promoted to lance-corporal and become a physical education instructor at the parachute training centre in Catterick, North Yorkshire.

DAILY POEM

Bluebell

By Jean Earle

An old farmer always named one cow Bluebell - and let himself get fond Of that one. Ambling in to milk, He kept his hand on her.

iet when she left for good – as all must – He always beat her, hard, Into the yan.

Young then, I did not understand -When I was old and could not cope with more Dead weight, how I would thrash my griefs Into the van. "Get in! Don't come haunting round my yard!"

"Bluebell" comes from the Welsh poet Jean Earle's collection The Sun in the West (Seren Books). Now aged 87, she will be giving a reading in the Voice Box at the Royal Festival Hall on Tuesday 21 January at 7.30pm.

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E.coli death toll rivals world's worst poisoning

Liz Hunt Health Editor

The E.coli food poisoning outbreak in Scotland claimed its seventeenth victim vesterday, with the death of an elderly woman at a nursing home near

The death toll is now only two short of the worst ever food poisoning outbreak on record, when 19 pensioners in a nursing home in Canada died in September 1985.

The woman's death, the fourth E.coli 0t57-related death at the Bankview Nursing Home, was confirmed by the Forth Valley Health Board a day after publication of the interim findings of an independent scientific inquiry team. Two other elderly residents at Bankview are still III after be-

lead the inquiry team, recommended more government funding for research into the bacterium and tough new rules on the sale of meat.

These include a licence for shops which sell cooked meat, which would he reviewed annually, and urgent action to separate raw and cooked meat on

Some Tory MPs and the Fedcration of Small Businesses warn that hundreds of butchers and small shopkeepers may be forced out of business if legislation is introduced as a result of the Pennington report.

Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, has said almost all the report's recommendations will be acceptcd by the Government. But he said the need for new legislation g infected. would be subject to a review by Professor Hugh Pennington. the Meat and Livestock Com-

of Aberdeen University, who mission before the final report is published in two months.

The woman who died yes terday was described as "frail and elderly and in poor health for some time". A health board spokesman added: "She had been cared for both at Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary and at the nursing home during the past few weeks." The death is the sixth in the Forth Valley area. The last reported fatality in the E.coli 0157 outhreak was on 29 December, when a 91year-old woman died in Monklands hospital, in Airdrie.

In Lanarkshire, the worst af fected area, health board officials said 193 people were confirmed as having the infection and 317 had reported symptoms. A spokesman said three adults are still being treated at Monklands hospital and a child is receiving dialysis treatment at Glasgow's Yorkhill hospital.



Master of farce: Brian Rix at the newly listed Whitehall Theatre in London yesterday, and, below, in his heyday

Heads seek safeguards to make A-levels fair

Lucy Ward **Education Correspondent**

Exam candidates should be identified only by number to guard against unfair marking which could favour some schools or pupils over others, the

organisation representing pub-

lic schools said vesterday.
The Headmasters and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC) also suggested a single examination board should be set up to administer A-levels to ensure that all students were on

an equal footing. The proposals comes a week after government advisers published a damning report on the marking of Oxford and Cambridge Exam Board English A-level papers.

Senior examiners at the

had attended.

Dr John Moore, headmaster of the King's School, Worcester, and chairman of HMC's academic policy sub-committee, said the conference "deeply regretted" the failure of the hoard's procedures and was anxious to avoid a repeat of the problems.

Dr Moore denied independent schools had benefited un-fairly. "Whatever failures there may have been in the procedures, all candidates were affected equally, whether they were from independent or state

But he acknowledged that public perception of the fairness of exams was crucially important. "Exams must be a fair board, which is used mainly by process and must be seen to be independent schools, were critical. One way of guaranteeing

icised for improving marks of that is for the candidates to be candidates from schools they 'hlind' - identified simply by a number," he said,

The move would bring the Oxford and Cambridge board, which currently prints pupils' names and school directly on to papers, into line with most other exam boards.

The conference also called for moves towards a single national exam board, providing there were "sufficient safeguards to ensure a range of syllabuses and to permit curriculum development".

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, is expected to announce shortly moves to rationalise the numbers of exam boards amid claims that schools "pick and mix" to find the easiest syllabuses. It is likely she will call for the four academic exam boards in England to be reduced.



Whitehall pulls up its trousers for a listing

David Lister Arts News Editor

When the Whitehall theatre opened in 1930, surrounded by government ministries and the occasional palace, an architect of the time noted: "The Whitehall Theatre is so simple in its line that it makes the new government offices. banks and public houses of that great thoroughfare look as if they need a shave."

It is the theatre's art deco architecture setting it apart from "the avenue of bureaucracy" that prompted the government's decision yesterday to make it a listed

building. But for theatregoers, and indeed non-theatregoers, it is not the architecture but the fare served up on the stage that gave the place its national reputation. The plays

presented by the theatre's manager and leading actor in the Fifties and Sixties, Brian Rix, not only delighted audiences, they gave the English language a new phrase: the Whitehall farce.

The theatre had had a history of brash entertainment from its earliest days. During the Second World War it mounted a series of revues, suggestive and titillating, to cheer up London in the Blitz. In 1942 a programme billed as The Whitehall Follies featured a non-strip performance by Phyllis Dixey. The show brought a new audience as Miss Dixey's

End's first stripper. The revues were very successful and it wasn't until Brian Rix arrived in 1950 that farce became the staple diet.

claim to fame was as the West

Rix, later Lord Rix, was a pioneer of bringing in coach parties as audiences for the farces spread; and he later arranged for plays to be televised. Terry Scott was one of many comics who learned

his skills in the farces. But if Phyllis Dixey seemed daring and Brian Rix chose plays that involved falling trousers and double entendres, the 1970s saw the Whitehall go a stage further. The impresario Paul Raymond took over and presented the West End's first nude production. Pyjama Tops, starring Fiona Richmond.

The theatre's ownership passed to the Maybox Group and later Chesterfield Properties, and it recently staged Trainspotting, maintaining the theatre's capacity both to shock and to be in tune with the times.





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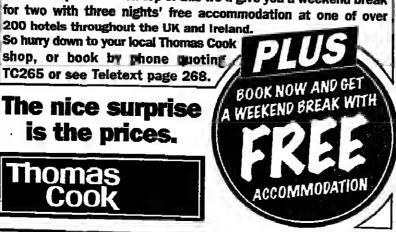
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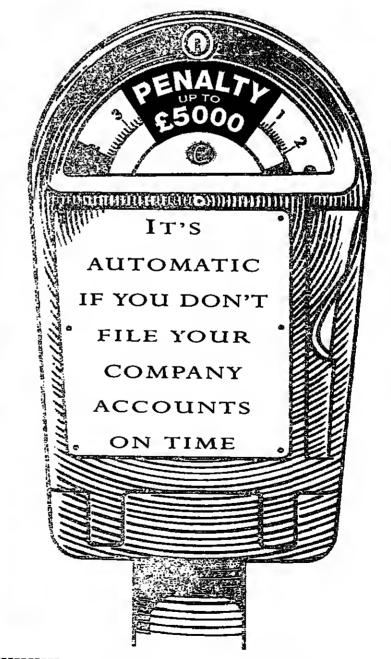
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Two teenage boys bludgeoned their mother to death after carefully planning her murder with their father, a court was

told yesterday.

Glenn Howells, 17, and his brother John, 15, smashed their mother Eve's skull repeatedly with a hammer in the living room of their home in Huddersfield, it was alleged at Leeds Crown Court. Glenn, who was 15 at the time of his mother's death in August 1995, and John, who was 14. deny murder. Glenn admits manslaughter on the grounds of provocation. Their father David.

48, denies murder. Franz Muller QC, for the prosecution, told the court that a bureau had been overturned and the contents strewn across the floor, leading police to be-lieve initially that Mrs Howells, 48, had disturbed burglars. But they soon began to suspect the boys and their father. "Far from

6 A neighbour described them as the family from hell 9

this being an attack committed on the spur of the moment in the course of a hurglary, this was a planned attack on Mrs Howells which was designed to kill her and to try and make sure that those responsible would not be caught." Mr Muller said.

Mr Howells was in a pub when his wife was killed, but this was "an essential part of the plan" so that he would not be suspected. There were problems with the marriage and Mr. Howells stood to gain more £150,000 from his wife's death. The boys, he added, would also benefit if their father came into money.

v Burrell QC, representing Glenn, said the boy, who claimed to have found his mother's body after going out to walk the dog, had been provoked. He said: "It will be Glenn Howells' defence that over a period of some five years, perhaps a little longer, his mother subjected him to severe and repeated emotional and mental abuse and cruelty." Eventually the boy reached the stage where he lost his self-control and took ment of their father."

SWIFTCALL

Mr Muller told the court that Mrs Howells was a teacher and many of her pupils thought she was "strict and unsympa-

He said: "This attitude spilt over into the home and it ap-pears that her sons resented the way she ruled their lives."

Neighbours said Mrs Howells could often be heard shouting and swearing at the boys and one neighbour described them as "the family from hell". Mr Muller said: "Both boys, but particularly Glenn, expressed their resentment at the way they were being treated by telling people that they hated their mother."

The marriage was not happy, sexual relations were practically non-existent, and Mrs Howells was having an affair with one of her husband's best friends, the court was told.

"A deep feeling of animosi-ty towards the deceased appears to have been shared between the three defendants and appears to have been all the more poignant as they all lived together in that relatively small bungalow," said Mr Muller.

Police began to suspect the boys when the family went to identify the body and an officer saw Glenn wink twice at his brother and then smirk.

Blood spots were found under the hureau suggesting that it had been pulled over after she was killed, and forensic scientists found spots of airborne blood on John's jacket, suggesting he was present when she was attacked despite telling police he had not seen her body.

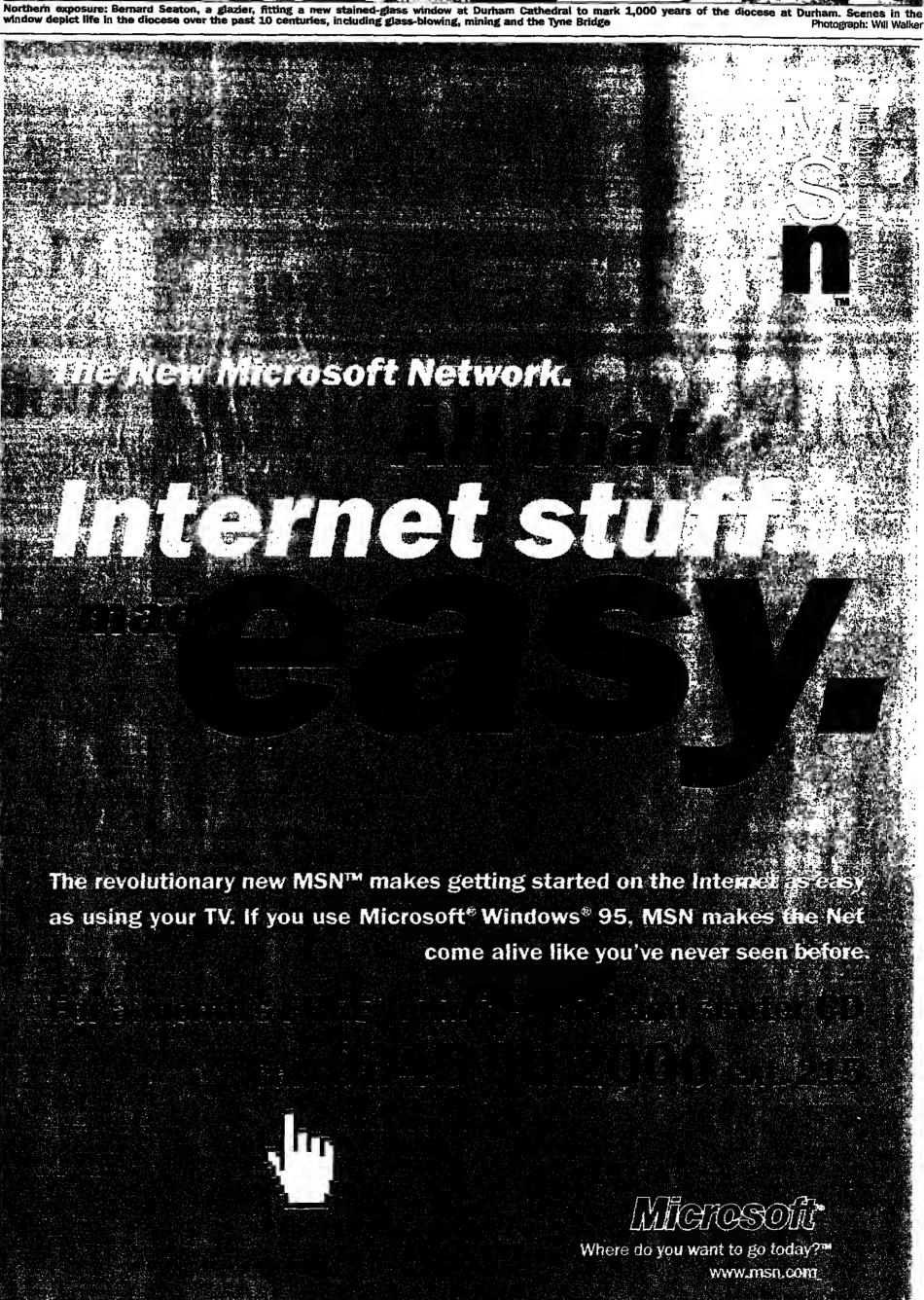
The boys were arrested on 20 September and soon afterwards covert tapes were made of conversations with their father. Mr Howells can be heard saying: "We have just got to hluff it out. If you break I'm in as well, so we've got to stick together ... It's your jacket that's caused this. We just never realised how much forensic can find."

Mr Muller said that although when his wife was killed he was guilty of murder because he "counselled and procured its

And he went on: "He set out to cause them to do it and in fact did cause them to do it. Can you really credit these two boys, then 14 and 15 years of age, of having killed their mother without the knowledge and without the approval and encourage-The trial continues.



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PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

Blair

The task Stair set himself was quite a simple one, unimaginatively and a little smugly carried out; first to put Major on the spot over VAT, then to ask his increasingly familiar third question, on thether we could have an election soon.

Major's manner is not magisterial enough to Major sweep aside direct and precise questions from the opposition in the way that his predecessor could, and given that, he was bound to be put on the spot by yesterday's questions.

BLAIR'S ATTACK Blam asked Major to confirm whether or not the Government had broken VAT cledges made before the last election - "yes or no"? All Major could do was say that Blair was "mistaken in the implications he is trying to draw".

THEMES OF THE DAY . VAT on look (The Labour Party)

Joining the single currency (Paddy Ashdown)

Potice (sentencing) Bill (Richard Tracey, C, Surbiton)
Proposed merger between BA and American Artines (John Wilkinson, C,

-1.300 redundancies at Ford (Jane Kennedy, Lab, Liverpool Broadgreer

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown (C. Cirencester and Tewkesbury) A five-question tirade against Labour's lay policy had MPs shielding their ears. As Major observed, he "made his point extremely clearly"

attracted Major's ire by consistently mocking his answers. She fired him up enough to produce his most robust reply of the day, and the shouts from Conservative benches were still going on as MPs left the chamber.

Angela Eagle (Lab. Wallasey)

Six of Labour's seven questions were essentially the same whether Major promised not to raise VAT before the last

election, and then did so. He did of course, and of course would THE QUIP OF THE DAY ollowing Nigel Evans's (C, Ribble Valley) attack on Labour spending, Major took over the baton, demanding that Labour cost their commitments. As he paused for breath, David Shaw

Tracey cracked the Government's whip on law and order, ctaiming that "only the party of government is in favour of measures against criminals in this country". This enabled Major o take a dig at "the would-be coalition partners", triumphing with his soundbite "by their votes they should be judged".

(C. Dover) piped up. "I'll all end in tears", quoting the poster campaign launched at the start of the year.

News of the world of Sir James

James Cusick

He has his own political party. paid for his own party conference and yesterday the hillionaire founder of the Referendum Party. Sir James Goldsmith launched and paid for his very own national newspaper.

For around £2m, the eightpage News from the Referendum Party is being sent to every home in the United Kingdom. In effect a printed version of the speeches made at Sir James's conference in Brighton last year, it calls for a defence of British sovereignty and a vote on the country's future in Europe.

Sir James appeared delighted to be back in British news publishing after his early 1980s flop with the news magazine Now!. which lasted for only a few issues.

Flying in to Heathrow from his home in Mexico, Sir James's entourage drove to Levton in east London to push the button on the print run of 24 million. If I press this, will something explode?," he asked. It was his only joke as he went on the at-"Today we find out [in The Independent] about European plans to harmonise tax. Brussels wanting to increase our tax is



Read all about it: Sir James Goldsmith at the launch of his own national newspaper yesterday

European Parliament, added the street-sellers' shout of "read all about it".

His newsletter accuses Sir Edward Heath and the Conservative government which took Britain into Europe of lying about the "erosion of esalso reported in our paper." Sir sential national sovereignty". It James. a member of the claims we are being "led blind-

fold into a federal superstate". The Independent that France The Referendum Party's leading figures, including the actor Edward Fox, Viscount Tonypandy, the former Commons speaker, and Baroness Thatcber's economics guru, Professor Sir Alan Walters, are paraded

as would-be reporters. Commenting on the report in

version to a Euro-sceptic stance. "They are a joke, the politiand Germany plan a pan-Eucians," Sir James said. ropean tax system to operate alongside the single European currency, Sir James said: "We

have been forecasting it for a long time – it's now coming out

With £20m of his fortune earmarked for the campaign to contest every parliamentary seat except those where the in the open." He mocked main party candidate is pledged to a referendum, he is scheduled Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, for bis con- to tour the country in his per- son was a famous cricketer."

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Par Royal

sonal jet next month. The party also plans cinema advertisements to reach 7.5 million people, on the theme of the

British bulldog biting hack The task may be difficult. A tea lady at the Leyton print works said: "No. I've no idea who he is. One of us thought his

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There's a great deal going on

Major rounds on Blair over food tax claim

Chief Political Correspondent

Tony Blair and Joho Major clashed in the Commons yesterday over Labour claims that the Tories would impose VAT on food after the election.

The claims raised the temperature of pre-election campaigning and led to Tory charges that Mr Blair was indulging in "lies" and negative campaigning, "What you are seeking to do is smear our plans for the next Parliament. It simply won't wash." Mr Major told the Labour leader.

Kenneth Clarke said on BBC radio that the idea of imposing VAT on food "never crossed my mind". He added: "I don't expect to live to see the day when any government puts VAT on food in this country." Labour's claim was described

as'a "lie" and a "pathetic stunt" by Dr Brian Mawhinney, Chairman of the Conservative Party. But neither the Prime Minister nor the Chancellor gave a commitment not to charge VAT on food or other zero-rated goods. Mr Clarke wrote to Alan

Labour and the Tories exchanged insults over Labour's claims that the Tories could impose VAT on food after the efection, but who is right? writes Colin Brown.

The VAT issue has been rumbling since 1979 when Labour claimed that the Tories would double it from

ight per cent to 16 per cent. The Tories then dismissed Labour's claims as "Labour's dirty dozen". But immed-iately after the election, Sir Geoffrey Howe raised VAT to 15 per cent.

It was therefore very nearly rue. But the argument rumbled on. In March 1991 Norman Lamont increased the rate of VAT to 17.5 per cent in his Budget to pay for the poll tax to be abolished. That fuelled Labour claims

Milburn, a Labour Treasury spokesman. last month saying: I have never made a promise not to extend the scope of VAT ...

Ministers hoped Labour's attack would bounce harmlessly off the Government. But Labour's target was the issue of trust in the Government and Labour strategists believe the VAT attack could prove deadly. Mr Clarke denied any lapse

of memory about VAT. "The [1992] manifesto did not say we weren't going to extend it and I have never said we weren't gong to extend it." he said. In fact, Mr Major said the Government had "no plans" to raise VAT, before imposing it on

domestic fuel, which had been zero rated. Labour stood by its claims and issued chapter and verse on the Chancellor's personal commitment to expanding the VAT

In his 1993 Budget. Mr Clarke said: "The Government's clear policy has always been to shift the burden of taxation over time from income to spending. This reflects the Gov-

in the run-up to the 1992 general election that the Tories were planning to slap VAT on zero-rated goods, such as children's clothes, food, newspapers and books. The claims were denied by ministers:

"There will be no VAT increase. Unlike the Labour Party we have published our spending plans and there is no need for us to raise VAT in order to meet them," John Major told Neil Kinnock in Prime Minister's questions on 28 January 1992.

ernment's uoderlying political philosophy that people should be allowed to keep as much of their own money as possible...It is fairer and less damaging to the economy to tax people on how much they spend and con-

sume than on the work they do." Commentators, said Mr Clarke, had correctly suggested that "one of my options must be to extend the VAT base. The main candidates are food, children's clothes, transport, sewerage and oewspapers. A powerful case for each of them can he made and no amount of lobbying need put us off."

The Chancellor then said he had no need to increase or widen VAT in his 1993 Budget. But his commitment to widening the VAT hase remained.

■ The Government admitted last night that there is a £400m hole - enough to build a new hospital - in the public finances because of errors in November's

Budget. Mistakes were made in estimates for the amounts expected to be raised by increases in air passenger duty and insurance premium tax.

"Tve made the pledge in the past. I have made it clear. We have no plans and no need to extend the scope of VAT," Mr Major added on 27 March 1992.

But the assurance was not enough. VAT was imposed on domestic fuel, starting at eight per ceut and rising to 17.5 per cent (later stopped), in the Budget in March 1993. Kenneth Clarke has since reaffirmed his belief that the

VAT base is too narrow. On 19 July 1994 he said in *The* Independent: "We exempt far too many goods and services from VAT in this country."

The Tories claim Labour is now lying. No one knows what will happen. But the Tories must rue the fact that Mr Clarke has been nnnsually candid.

Peers push gun Bill changes

Chief Political Correspondent

Labour was last night ready to help the Government avoid defeat by Tory backwoodsmen in the House of Lords over the Bill to ban handguns above .22 calibre in the wake of the Dun-

blane massacre. Pro-gun Tory peers were pressing for changes to the Firearms (Amendment) Bill to allow guns to be kept at home with parts of the mechanism re-

moved, and kept in gun clubs. The gun-lobby sought the compromise considered in the review of the law by Lord

Cullen, to avoid the imposition ing Lord Swansea, denied it of total ban on handguns. But it was rejected by Labour and the Government.

Lord Swansea, a Tory peer who lists fishing and rifle shooting amoog his recreations, called for the Bill to be referred to a Lords Select Committee, a move not followed since 19

May 1938, with the Coal Bill. Lord Swansea insisted at a Westminster news conference that he was not attempting to wreck the Bill. "It is simply to get the thing discussed in detail.

with expert witnesses who could he cross-examined," he said, Lord Pearson, who is back-

would delay the legislation. Lord Swansea's supporters said the idea of dismantling guns and dividing their parts between owners homes and secure central locations, had worked successfully for Switzerland's

territorial army for 40 years. John Hoare, secretary of the National Small-Bore Rifle Association, said most pistols were

designed to be dismanuled. "On its own, each part of a pistol is about as effective and dangerous as a toffee hammer. It's just a lump of metal. The parts need to be together to be

internationa

Expanding alliance: Kremlin offered permanent consultative role to defuse fears over waning influence

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Security deal eases Russia's pain over Nato

Europe Editor Phil Reeves

Natu is preparing to offer Russia a consultative role on major security and arms-control issues to balance the Atlantic alliance's expansion into Central and Eastern Europe, Western diplomats said yesterday.

The offer, which is designed to ease Russian concerns about Nato's enlargement, may include the creation of permanent consultation mechanisms enabling Nato states and Russia to discuss matters such as peacekeeping, disarmament, inter-national terrorism and the non-proliferation of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction.

Photograph: Andrew Buuma

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Although the offer goes further to integrate Russia into Nato structures than previous proposals, it is not certain Russia will regard it as going far enough. When the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, vis-ited Moscow two weeks ago for talks with President Boris Yeltsin, he formed the impression Russia wanted a legally binding treaty that would commit Natn to consult with Russia on security matters of joint concern. Diplomats said Nato would be certain to reject that demand, if it were taken to mean Russia could, in effect, exereise a veto over the policies of alliance members.

Yesterday Russia's stance oo Nato expansion, which has long been hostile, softened ooticeably wheo the Defence Minister, Igor Rodionov, said Moscow had no plans to create a new military block of its own. Although Russia remained opposed to expansion, it was, he

computing

said. Nato's husiness: "If Nato wants to expand, let it expand."

The minister's softer ione is a departure from the Cold War semiments that have periodically emanated from Moscow. Only last month Mr Rodionov characterised Nato as a military threat to Russia, and talked of unspecified retaliation. It also contrasts with the Kremlin's announcement this week that Russia wanted to push forward plans to reunite with neighbouring Belarus, a move seen

in the Nato bargaining process. But Russian rhetoric on Nato, whils: negative, has been erratic, partly because of the absence of the sick Boris Yeltsin. and partly because it has few strong cards to play. Nato's Secretary-General,

That summit will see Nato issue membership invitadons to a small group of former Communist countries, widely expected to he the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, with Slovenia and Romania as

President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland was the guest last night at a dinner givas an attempt to raise the stakes en aboard HMS Victory in Porismouth harbour for the outgoing US Defense Secretary, William Perry, The dinner was hosted by Mr Perry's British counterpart, Michael Portillo.

profound as possible" a rela-

tionship with Russia and hoped

much of the detail would be

agreed before a landmark Nato summit in Madrid next July.

the next most likely candidates.

Mr Kwasniewski was the only representative at the dinner of Javier Solana, will give Russian a country that aspires to join leaders details of the alliance's Nato. Diplomatic sources said proposals when he holds talks there was no special reason for in Moseow next Monday. Mr Kwasniewski's invitation Speaking in Vienna yesterday, beyond the fact that he had met he said Nato wanted "as Mr Portillo several times. Speaking in Vienna yesterday,



Would-be comrades in arms; France's President Jacques Chirac with his Hungarian counterpart Arpad Goencz yesterday

Chirac promises Hungary a Western millennium

Adrian Bridge Budapest John Lichfield

Central European hopes for early membership of Nato and the European Union received a boost yesterday wheo the French President, Jacques Chirac, told Hungarian leaders that he would give their applications his "unqualified support".

"France supports Hungary becoming a European Union member in 2000 and its application to join Nato," Mr Chirae certed French auempt to chamtold the Budapest parliament, adding that Hungary was on course to be invited to join Nato accession talks following the summit of alliance leaders in Madrid next July.

He also congratulated the country on concluding friendship treaties with neighbouring Slovakia and Romania, both of which have large ethnic Hungarian populations, thus easing the potential for regional conflict.

couragement form part nf a coo-

Mr Chirae's words of en-

Polish parliament last Septem-

pion the cause of speedy Nato

expansion into central Europe and the parallel process of EU enlargemeot.

Although he did not name a date for the former, he delighted his audience yesterday by reiterating his belief – first

expressed in an address to the ber - that 2000 would be a realistic date for their entry into the EU, despite widespread doubts that it could be achieved so fast.

years is utterly unrealistic and hugely unhelpful, according to EU officials. A similar promise oo Nato membership would be far more reasonable: 2000 is already the quasi-formal target date for enlargement of the Western alliance to the East.

But formal negotiations on extending the EU to former Cornmunist countries cannot begin until the eod 1997. It is agreed the talks will begin six months after internal oegotiations oo re-

lateral promise to admit Hun-gary to the EU within three form are completed, which will be June at the earliest. This would leave at most

two years to complete the largest and most complex enlargement in the history of the EU. Negotiations with Spain and Portugal took seveo years.

Besides, it is accepted by all parties that the eastern expansioo cannot happeo without a radical reform of existing farm policy, or an enlargement of the Brussels budget, or probably both, France, for ooe, will drag its feet on farm policy; Ger-

many, the main European hudget contributor, insists that it can pay no more. Beyond that, EU Commission officials say, it is far from clear that Hungary and the other likely eastern contenders - Poland, the Czech Republic

would be 2003 to 2005. The French President's motives for making such a clear commitment to an early date is unclear. In part, he had no choice. He gave the same

and Slovenia - will be ready for

full membership within three years. A more likely time-scale

promise to Poland last year and could do no less in Budapest. It is also typical of him to make popular gestures when abroad. French officials admit that the date may he unrealistic but say it is the renewed commitment to enlargement which counts. Alongside his Foreign Minis-

ter, Herve de Charette, Mr Chirac's party in Budapest included a host of French business executives, all auxious to explore the possibilities in one of the countries that has best managed the transitioo to the free market.

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The French President's uni-

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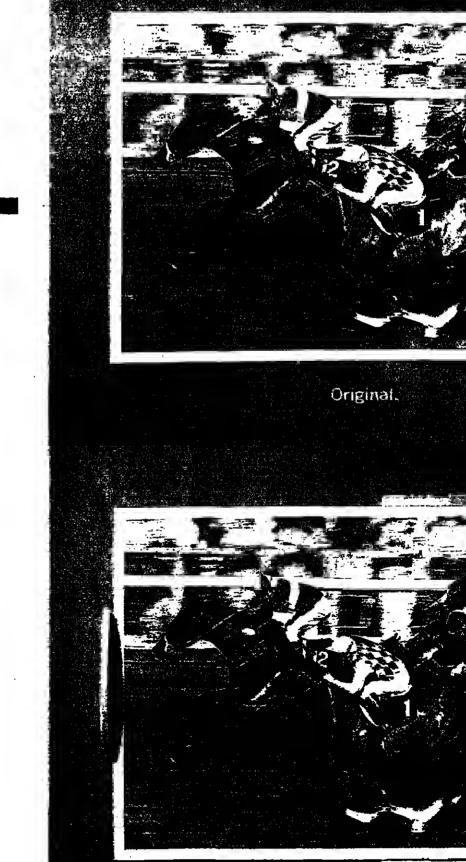
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Nation is reborn, says Serbia's protest leader

Steve Crawshaw Belgrade

"I was amazed. It's like a new birth. The child is born in poverty, the parents are old and unwell. Everything seems to be against a bealthy birth. And then, suddenly, the haby is so

beautiful. Everybody is amazed,

That's how it is in Serbia today." Zoran Djindjic, one of the leaders of Serbia's Zajedno ("Together") alliance, makes no secret of the extent to which Serbia's quiet revolution has taken him by surprise.

"I expected us to lose the elections. Really to lose. Then I planned that we would go to the trade unions and organise strikes in the spring and summer of 1997, as the economie crisis deepened."

In reality, Zajedno stormed to victory in municipal elections in November in Belgrade and many other Serbian cities, a result which an electoral commission finally recognised this week but which Mr Milosevic's ruling party may still attempt to overrule. Since the elections,

He told The Independent: street demonstrations of up to half a million people in Belgrade have demanded that the authorities retreat.

Mr Djindjic is at the heart of the storm. Of the three leaders of Zajedno, Mr Djindjie, leader of the Democratic Party, is seen by many as the most likely next president.

Interviewed in his office yesterday - a few crammed and bustling rooms on the fifth floor of an apartment block in central Belgrade - the dapper Mr Djindjic made it clear he does not believe Mr Milosevie has

"His power is in the last stages of decay. It's rotten to the core. Without these demonstrations, it would have taken much

longer to show this." Despite a ruling by the electoral commission in Belgrade this week, aeknowledging the opposition victory in the city in November, Mr Djindjic expects a challenge from the ruling party. He predicted that Mr Milosevice a past master at divide-and-rule tactics, would then allow an "interim govern-

given up.: Equally, he insisted ment" for the city, leaving the that the President is doomed: whole result in limbo. whole result in limbo.

حكنات الاجل

Like many in the opposition. Mr Djindjic seems to have resigned himself to waiting until elections later this year for Mr Milosevic's departure. "The general condition must be free elections and free media. If that is not met we will boycott the elections. There will be a social rebellion." He argued that even if the opposition wins the next elections, "That is not yet victory. Victory comes later. Winning the elections merely gives us the entry ticket".

Meanwhile, he insists that important victories have already been won. "We have changed Serbia's image in the world. We have removed the aura surrounding Milosevic, at home and abroad. At home, we have shown that he is weak. Abroad, we have shown that he is a risk factor, not a stability factor, just as he has been since 1990 [in the lead-up to the Yu-

to keep himself in power."

Despite his proclaimed disapproval of nationalism. Mr

Diindiic is reluctant to distance himself from the Bosnian Serb leadership. In 1994 he famously showed solidarity with Radovan Karadzic in the Bosnian Serb capital, Pale. He still sees nothing wrong with this: "I don't regret showing solidarity - we bad a national crisis."

Is that not akin to suggesting that it was every good German's duty to show solidarity with Hitler when the world was against him? "A better comgoslav wars] ... He was ready to start a war, not for Serbia, but parison: a Jew in America shows solidarity with Israel, even if it has duhious policies."

He studied in Germany with the leading social philosopher, Jürgen Habermas. "He influenced me very much. I underprngress, it must communicate its own problems. I saw that authoritarian societies are a blockade on their own society."

In Kosovo, Serbia's southern. Albanian-majority province, the Serb rector of the University of Pristina was injured in a carbomb explosion yesterday. The attack seemed likely to heighten ethnic tensions in the already

Don't mention the stereotypes

Imre Karacs Bonn

How simple the world must have seemed back in 1994, when the leaders of Germany and Britain embraced each other, and commissioned a book that would lay the ghosts of the past to rest. Never again would national stereotypes get in the way of reconelliation, they vowed. Three years on, after crises

over beef, football and suspected pan-European ambitions, the two countries' tax-payers went finally rewarded yesterday. You can get your copy of Thomas Kielinger's Crossroads and Roundabouts from the German embassy, or wait until the joint publishers, the Foreign Office and the German government's press office, find a distributor.

Alas, as the title itself betrays, the chequered history of Anglo-German relations cannot be told without resorting stereotypes. The disciplined Germans,

it seems, love the rigid rule that traffic lights impose on a road intersection. The anarchic British, on the other hand, prefer the free-for-all of Hanger Lane.

So much can be deduced from this, and so much is. The uninitiated reader learns that great men centuries ago had remarked on German propensity for obedience, in contrast with British free spirit. Mr Kielinger tries hard to find

common veins in the two nations' genetic make-up and cultural traditions, Victoria and Albert were Germans, we are informed; Marx and Engels had spent many years of their lives in Britain, and the Beatles matured into a successful pop group in Hamhurg's club-land. So what? - the reader may

ask. The author concedes that "the British have a problem with Europe, and part of this problem is Germany". In this context, where the Beatles spent the winter of '60-61 is largely irrelevant.



... and don't mention the BSE row: Justinen Borchert, German Agriculture Minister, examining a 40kg hamburger advertising German beef at the international agriculture fair in Berlin yesterday Photograph: Reinhard Krause/Reuters

significant shorts

Cosby shot dead in LA

The only son of the popular US television comedian Bill Cosby was shot dead after stopping on a mountain road not far from central Los

Angeles.
The body of Ennis Cosby. in his 20s, was found alongside his car at the top of Sepulveda Pass, publicist David Brokaw said.

The 54-year-old star of the Cosby television show was in New York when he heard of his son's death. Cosby and wife Camille are the parents of four daughters and one son. AP- Los Angeles

Circumcised girls 'lack care'

Hundreds of women and girls, some as young as six, are suffering from infections following a female circumcision ceremony in Sierra Leone and are receiving only limited medical care, a British nurse

Like all foreigners, the nurse, Gloria Tak Ching Yu. is barred from entering the ceremonial site outside the capital Freetown, but sbe said aid workers bad been sending local health workers into the area with medicine and directions on bow to treat the wounded. AP -

Son of TV star Get-rich-quick Albanians

stay poor For the second day in a row, an Albanian get-rich-quick scheme failed to pay out as promised. Despositors who feared their savings were lost tussled with police and smashed windows in frustration, Unrest in Vlora, in southern Albania, came a day after a woman operating another pyramid fund in the capital Tirana declared it

Clinton's hand of friendship

bankrupt and was arrested.

AP – Vlora, Albania

Bowing to calls for more civility in politics. President Bill Clinton is offering the United States' highest civilian award to his vanquisbed Republican rival, Bob Dole.

Mr Clinton plans to award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Mr Dole today. according to a White House official. AP - Washington

CAR gunfight

French troops fought a gunbattle with mutinous local soldiers in Central African Republic, killing one rebel and capturing another, the French army said. There were no French casualties. Reuters - Bangin

Italy goes in search of new political order

Andrew Gumbel

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et appir-

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Health dealer

What on earth is a bicamerale? Most Italians wouldn't be able to tell you beyond the fact that it has been the subject of fierce political debate and has some-thing to do with the constitution. under present arrangements and that something has to be

changing the way Italy is gov-erned - may well be the most significant political creation for

It has been clear for a long time that Maly is ungovernable In fact, the bicamerale - a spe- done to stabilise and simplify the cial commission of both bous- system. But up until now the

governments have been unable to agree on bow to do it.
The breakthrough is largely

due to Massimo D'Alema, leader of the left-wing PDS party and chief tactical brain behind Romano Prodi's centre-left

es of parliament charged with various factions, parties, shift-the opposition, the media magnate and former prime minis-ter Silvio Berlusconi, with an irresistible offer: the chance to put all his judicial and husiness problems on hold and resusci-

tate his flagging political career.

In exchange for making up
the two-thirds majority necescoalition government. His coup has been to woo the leader of existence, Mr Berlusconi will

not now have to worry about next week it should breeze having one or more of his tele-vision channels taken away by the Constitutional Court. Nor are his various trials for political corruption and business malpractice likely to have repercussions in parliament, as they could so easily have done.

Yesterday, the bicamerale was approved by the Senate and

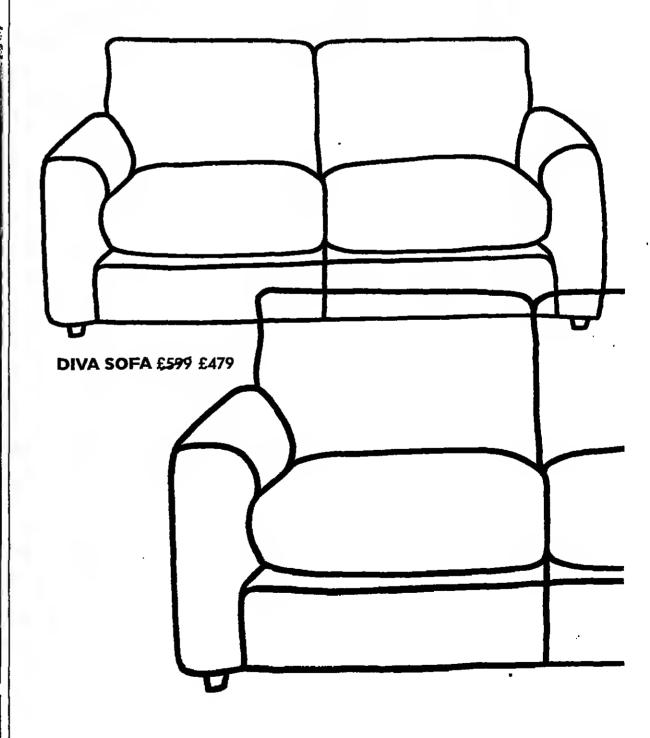
have five months to make its recommendations. Proposals are likely to include a strengthening of the power of the Prime Minister, a rethink of the electoral system, and a redefinition of the work of parliament to avoid duplication by the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.

through the lower house. It will



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A new second section containing our unrivalled business pages and our acclaimed sports coverage. This week: the City superwoman, and why footballers are the new stars of TV adverts



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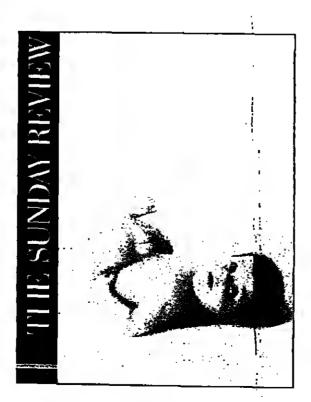


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Bombs hit . US family planning clinic

Rupert Cornwell

Anti-abortion violence flared again in the US yesterday, as two bombs exploded in the space of an hour at a building housing a family planning clin-ic in Atlanta, Georgia. The first explosion ripped out part of a wall and the second injured several people near by.

The first blast, at a fivestorey block that also contains the offices of lawyers, dentists end accountants, came at around 9.30am local time. An hour later another device exploded in a dustbin outside the building, lightly wounding an agent of the federal Burcau of Alcobol Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), who bad been sent to investigate the first explosion. Several others who had been evacuated from inside the building were also hurt.

It was "a miracle" no one was badly injured or killed, one

After the explosions, a police spokesman told journalists: "It appears the clinic was the target of the attack and that some kind of explosive device was employed." No group immediately claimed responsibility and no threats had been received by the clinic, the Northside Family Planning Services, although it was reportedly the target of a similar bombing in

As the Atlanta Mayor, Bill Campbell, immediately ordered extra police protection for all such clinics, workers were evac-

uated from the nearby Pied-mont Clinic efter e telephoned

homb warning.
The Atlenta incident is the latest in 15 years of antiabortionist violence in the US, during which dozens of clinics bave been blockaded, bombed, or set on fire in 28 states. Five medical workers have been murdered in three separate at-

In July 1994, the former church minister Paul Hill shot dead a doctor and his assistant et a Pensacola elinic and is at present on Florida's death row Five months later, John Salvi, a part-time hairdresser, shot and killed two clinic receptionists in Massachusetts. He later committed suicide in prison.

Thereafter, at least until yes-terday, the violence seemed to subside. But the issue of abortion continues to make political waves, most recently with the controversy over President Clinton's veto of a bill that would bave completely outlawed late-term or "partial birth" abortions, even though the procedure is normally used only in extreme medical emergencies.

The attack comes less than a week before a scheduled big anti-abortion rally here, to mark the 24th anniversary of the Supreme Court's historic 1973 Roe vs Wade ruling, enshrining a woman's right to have an abordon. That right has been upheld in subsequent high court judge-ments, despite every effort of the anti-abortion lobby to



محداس الامل

ulture of cruelty in the sublime city

Why is it that unspeakable things tend to bappen in the most sublime settings? Charleston, I can assert with authority after almost six years of living in America, is the most beautiful city in the land.

And on the northern edge of its historic district lies a group of austere, white-painted buildings, crenellated like a Moorish castle, clustered around a vast green parade ground lined with palms and broad oak trees. These are the barracks of the Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina. By the standards of such institutions, it too is undeniably an architectural ornament. What goes on there, however, is not so much beau-

tiful as bestial. For two years the once allmale Citadel has been attempling to comply with a

CHARLESTON DAY Now, "hazing" is illegal. But in truth it is just an outgrowth of the Citadel's strange, savage

Supreme Court order that it must admit women. In 1995 Shannon Faulkner, who sued to force open its doors, became its first female cadet. She lasted a week, broken not by the traditionally brutal treatment of new entrants

but by isolation. In August 1996, four more women curolled. This week sublime word in the English lantwo resigned, unable to put up with "hazing", or persecution, that included physical assault, being drenched in nail varnish remover which was then set alight and being forced to drink tea till they threw up. Lest I forget, there was straightforward

sexual barassment too.

As euphemisms go, that takes some beating. The fresh-man enters this military academy knowing bis life for a year will be, by deliberate design, not so much adversarial as bellish. He will be bullied, intimidated and humiliated, all in the

environment".

culture since it was founded in

in 1842 to "graduate young

men who have been taught the

high ideals of bonour, integri-

ty. loyalty and patriotism".

a visitor's guidesheet calls "a

am of moulding the perfect sol-dier - disciplioed, unselfish, and unerly obedient. Small wonder one in five cadets drops out during year one. Now, one may well ask, why

sbould any woman in ber right

Duty, says the sign in the bar-racks courtyard, is the most Shannon Faulkner, Brutality guage", to be instilled in what of Citadel proved too much mind want to suhmit to this perunique holistic and adversarial verted warrior culture? Her right to do so, as the Supreme Court agreed, is beyond constitutional dispute. But boys will be boys. And after spend-

ing two years and millions of dollars to keep them out, the Citadel would not make it easy. True, it has gone through the motions. Panic buttons have been installed in the quarters of women cadets. Two male cadets bave been suspended, and I1 assured us this week. But, be added even more revealingly, it did not need "outsiders telling us what to do". So spake the quintessential Charleston; proud, instinctively superior, and loathing of change. You see it everywhere, Be-

hind the counters of small shops, well-raised ladies of a certain age take an eternity to ring up the simplest transaction, prodding and fiddling with that late 20th century barharity called the electronic cash register. While you wait, they dispense the courtesies of an English tea-room: no Yankee inanities like "Have a nice day" will be found here. But appearances are deceptive. Behind those cashmere-clad exteriors hide souls of steel.

Charlesion may seem dreamy and sensuous, suspended smid marsbes, seamists and brown pelicans cutting across the harbour waters. But only with conformity and discipline can the beauty of old streets be maintained. Not may be disciplined after the lata speck of dirt disfigures the pasest incidents. "The Citadel's future is co-educational," its tel colours of the houses. Every balf-hidden garden, every

interim president Clifton Poole portico and and patio must be similarly perfect, preserving the order of a vanished world. As with the Citadel, so with the city. Be it a woman at the military college, or graffiti on the walls of an ethereal East Battery mansion gazing out towards the Atlantic Ocean - the sacrilege is the same.

Remember too that South Carolina was the first state to withdraw from the Union in 1860, and hothead Southern soldiers (many of them graduates of the Citadel) fired the first shots of the American Civil War. And in a way, you feel, it has never really ended. Charleston does not just peddle the old Confederacy to tourists, but deep down still lives it. The magic of the place lies not only in the melancholy of lost causes - but in a belief that somebow the cause was not lost at all, Back to Charleston, decides Rhett Butler at the end of Gone With The Wind, "where there's still a little bit of grace and charm left." Indeed there is. Alas, bowever, not at the

Rupert Cornwell

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Star of David flies over Hebron no more

Patrick Cockburn jerusalem

Israeli soldiers were vesterday taking down the blue-and-white Star of David flag on the roof of the military headquarters from which they have ruled Hebron for 30 years. The order for the final withdrawal of Israeli troops from the city, the capital of the southern West Bank. was expected as soon as the Is-

raeli Knesset voted its approval. For the Israeli right it is a day of mourning. With the approval of the chief rabhi of Kiryat Arba. the Jewish settlement which overlooks Hebron. the settlers in the centre of the city will ceremonially rend their clothes usually only small slits are made - to mark their grief at the

partial Israeli withdrawal. In Jerusalem the cahinet approved the protocol on Hehron by a margin of II to 7 after a rancorous 12-hour debate in

which Binyamin Begin, son of Menachim Begin, the former prime minister, resigned in protest, accusing Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, of ceding "the Jewish homeland".

Outside the Prime Minis-ter's office a demonstrator held up a placard reading: "You promised. We believed. You betrayed." But about 67 per cent of Israelis said they were satisfied with the Hebron agreement signed on Wednesday, according to the daily Yediot Aharanot. Only 25 per cent were

There is jubilation among the previous Labour government's supporters, defeated by Mr Netanyahu in last May's election, who see their policies justified. Shimon Peres, the former prime minister, said: "I truly congratulate the government on the signing of the protocol based on the Oslo agreement." Uri Savir, the former leader of Israel's ne-

gotiating team, says: "On most issues there are improvements for the Palestinians.

This optimism may be misplaced. Mr Netanyahu has gone along with continuing to implement the Oslo accords largely because of intense international pressure from Egypt and Jordan in the Arah world, the West Europeans and, above all, the US. If the partial withdrawal from Hebron allows him to hreak out of diplomatic isolation he may repair his re-lations with the settlers, the shock troops of the right, by

expanding settlements.
The US has played a much greater role in the recent talks than during negotiations on Oslo under Labour. Meiron Benvenisti, an expert on the West Bank, says: The agreement is not an Israeli-Palestinian agreement, rather an Israeli-American and a Palestinian-American agreement."

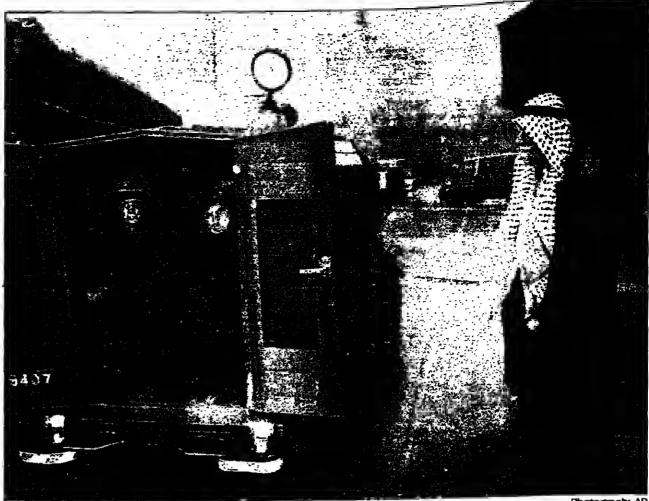
The Prime Minister says his greatest achievement was to get an agreement that Israel will determine the extent of its withdrawal in the third phase of the pull-out from the West Bank. Under Oslo, Israel can keep "military locations". Mr Netanyahu implies this may mean half the West Bank. Sach

Erekat, the Palestinian nego-

tiator, says this means "military

bases" and no more.

By giving up most of Hebron, where Abraham and the Patri-archs lie buried, Mr Netanyahu is receding from his old argu-ment that the West Bank was given by God to the Jews. But on the ground Mr Netanyahu has ceded little yet. The Hebron protocol suffers from the same failing as the rest of the Oslo accord. Authority is handed to Palestinians, but settlers stay in place, ensuring endless friction between two groups of people



Heading home: A Palestinian watches Israeli troops leaving a military post in Hebron

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New questions over sacking of HK official

Hong Kong

New revelations continue to flow in the scandal surrounding the forced resignation of Lawrence Leung, the former head of Hong Kong's immigra-tion department. They come as a furious Chris Patten, the Governor, returned to the colony from London vesterday attacking media coverage of the débàcle as a "lot of self-indulgent

Speaking at the airport, he rounded on critics who believe that Mr Leung was treated harshly for breaking rules related to his business affairs. "If you have discovered that the Director of Immigration couldn't pass an integrity check but the govemment had swept it under the carpet and let him stay in office, you would have pilloried the government and rightly," he told re-

on Wednesday the government finally admitted that Mr Leung had been forced out, having agreed with him to tell the public that he was stepping down for personal reasons. However legislators believe that the government has still not come clean about the reasons for Mr Leung's departure and will summon the Chief Secretary. Anson Chan, for further questioning next week.

The legislator's disquier is fuelled by a steady trickle of new allegations about Mr Leung and a growing number of unanswered questions.

A senior official in Ottawa told The Independent yesterday that special arrangements were made for Mr Leung to secure Canadian citizenship which circumvented normal immigration rules. Mr Leung has consistenty stressed his good relations with officials from the incoming Chinese regime and it is unclear why

became director, his wife and children emigrated to Canada where they bought a luxurious flat in Vancouver. In 1993 his daughter Sylvia was murdered with a crossbow. Police are investigating a link with Chinese triad gangs. The Leung family and Sylvia Leung's boyfriend were the victims of at least five arson attacks before the murder.

All family members are now back in Hong Kong where they have become embroiled in the inancial controversy which the government has cited as the reason for Mr Leung's forced resignation. Both Mr Leung's son Hugo and his wife, Kitty, are directors of companies alongside Mr Leung. He failed to declare his interest in them when asked to do so by his superiors.

One of the companies, the New China Hong Kong Advertising Company, is linked to the New China Hong Kong Group. an investment company founded by Tsui Tsin-tong with the backing of the Chinese authorities. Mr Tsui, a benefactor of the British Museum, is known to have been an arms trader.

It appears that while head of the immigration department. responsible for sensitive dealings with Chinese officials, Mr Leung was trying to establish a business in China with one of the Hong Kong husinessmen closest to

China's government.

Another of Mr Leung's undisclosed businesses. Dragon House Investments, was linked to Lau Wong-fat, one of the leg-islators with the hest relations with Peking. Mr Lau is a godfa-ther figure in Hong Kong's rural areas where he has extensive

property holdings. Most of Hong Kong's Chinese language newspapers yesterday suggested that the financial irregularities surrounding Mr Leung were insufficient to justify his dismissal.



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the leader page

Taming the Franco-German behemoth

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hey lied through their teeth. So says Sir James Goldsmith, whose confused propaganda is about to flood the country. Of course they didn't. The politicians of both main parties who took us into the European Community, and kept us there, did not lie to us. They made a difficult, compromised and pragmatic judgement of the balance of national advantage. But central to their case was the argument that Britain would not be absorbed into a bigger country called Europe. It was always accepted that there were some misguided foreign Johnnies who wanted to create a United States of Europe, but they were not many, and, besides, there was always trouble with the translations. Even if many in the German and French political élites did want to go further than was strictly reasonable, they would not be able to. because the different languages and cultures, especially of an expanded Community, would make it impractical. That was a reasonable belief then, and it bas not yet been proven

to be wrong.

But now we do bave to reconsider. Our exclusive report yesterday (so exclusive that even the British Foreign Office struggled to grasp its truth) is an important breakthrough in our understanding of the Franco-German engine at the heart of the European project. We need to be clear about what is going on across the Channel, because the view bas been well and truly fogged by wild Europhobe language, and by obscurantist Eurocrat jargon ("flexibility", "pillars" and other inter-governmental mumho-jumbo).

Taxes and wars are the two defining features of nation states. In the past 500 years, modern countries created themselves by waging wars, and to pay for those wars they raised taxes. Now Germany and France want the inner core of Europe to harmonise tax policy - not just VAT on sales, already subject to upper and lower limits, but also income tax. This is not only the stuff of natioo statehood, it is the very meat of modern politics, the issue that dominates democratic elections: how much will the voters pay to run the state? Later, the Franco-German élites will want to merge defence policy, the war-making machinery. It is time to face up to the fact that this is precisely what Brirish pro-Europeans always argued and boned would never bappen. Of course the trite response to our story in yesterday's newspaper is to declare, as Downing Street and the European Civil Service did, that it could not happen under the terms of the Treaties of Rome and Maastricht which are the founding documents of the European constitution.

This is beside the point. Or rather,



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• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

it may actually be the point, in that it is clear that the French and German governments are thinking beyond those treaties, and that constitution. It is now obvious that the governing élites in Germany and France really do intend to create a fully integrated core Europe, and it is possible that they will create new structures, separate from the European Union, to do it. The Benelux countries, and Italy, Austria, Spain, Portugal and Ireland will want to go along with the core Europe project, leaving Britain, with Denmark and possibly Sweden,

Now, the splitting of the EU into two unequal parts is deeply unappealing to British eyes, and it may never happen. We bave argued for some time that the governing élites in Germany and France are dangerously out of touch with their own peoples, let alone the peoples of the rest of Europe. But that bas not stopped them in the past and is no guarantee that Tax and Social Security Jnion will fail.

If it goes ahead, it would not be the European superstate of sceptic pronations governed by consensus and majority voting. The further away we get from Maastricht, 1991, the clearer it becomes that it was not, as John Major argued at the time, the turning of the European tide; it was merely a holding operation.

In principle, outer European countries could be members of a single currency without being members of a tax union. In practice, it is unthinkable. The case for Britain joining a single currency is already fragile. In order to argue that meaningful national sovereignty could be retained, it depends on the EU being an association of states of roughly equal status existing co-operatively in a single currency area. The dominance of the area by a core-Europe bebemoth, in a possibly antagonistic relationship with Britain, a lone, medium-sized nation on its peripbery, is not a scenario that either Tony Blair or Mr Major's successor could possibly contemplate.

It looks as if we might arrive at a point where even a future Labour government might after all be faced with a form of the "in or out" question. Not in or out of the EU, which could become an increasingly redundant organisation of bangers-on. The real question will be whether Britain should be in or out of the European core.

But all is not yet lost. This apoca- of something greater.

lyptic vision of a future of two Europes ought to spur us on to pose deep questions. In particular, one assumption ought to be challenged. Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary, appears to agree with Mr Major that our role in the EU ought to be to put ourselves at the head of an alliance of peripheral nations against the Franco-German conspiracy. Surely, this is a flawed strategy on two counts. Surely Britain should either join a core troika that sets the direction of Europe, or find another more positive route to the future? And is part of the problem not the lack of an alternative project around which the smaller nations could unite?

That is why it was significant that Tony Blair yesterday came out against the idea of "flexibility" in the new treaty to be signed in Amsterdam in June. But that only raises the question of what he and Mr Cook favour. The challenge is to come up with a credible vision of Europe's future and work for it from within the core. By coincidence, this newspaper has argued consisteotly for such a visioo over the past year, a model of a democratic constitution for what we call a confederal Europe, which is in tune with the desire of the majority of the peoples of Europe to preserve their independence while being part

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Bugging: we cannot simply trust police

Sir: The letter from the president of the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) and others (15 January) tells us we need not be concerned about the powers to be given to them by the Police Bill. Liberty takes a different view.

He argues that surveillance and bugging bave been going on for a long time and the Bill does not provide for new tactics. That this procedure has been used although it is of dubious legality and often unlawful is an interesting confession. Whilst it is true that the police service has been concerned about the lawfulness of this practice, these qualms have, at least publicly, only been recently expressed. If the police bave been prepared to bend the tules in the past, does that oot confirm that we are right to be concerned about new powers being abused in the future?

I do not believe chief constables will, as a matter of course, seek to listen in to conversations between clients and lawyers, but it is wrong in principle for police officers, even chief constables, to bave the power to authorise such surveillance. The suggestion by Acpo that police . officers should be able to take the very sensitive decision to listen in to discussions between lawyers and clients in the middle of a criminal trial if, to quote the Bill, the officer "thinks it is necessary" because of suspected jury-fixing, makes me even more alarmed than I was hefore I read this letter.

The other concern that Acpo tries to dispel relates to the surveillance of protesters. The Bill allows hugging and hurgling only in respect of the prevention or detection of serious crime. However the definition of serious crime includes "conduct by a large number of persons in pursuit of a common purpose". Since the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act some forms of trespass now constitute criminal offences, and surveillance of those involved in road protests will be made lawful by this Bill.

Judges already have a role in deciding whether sensitive material held by doctors, journalists and priests can be searched by the police and this system can easily be extended to deal with hugging. It may be necessary to ensure that judges are available outside court hours, but systems already exist for judges to deal with injunctions and

other urgent matters. The current protections force us to trust the integrity and good sense of the police. I know that they will very often get it right, hut there are too many examples of police officers getting it wrong, and these powers are too important for us to rely on that trust so completely. JOHN WADHAM Director

Sir: Chief constables claim that under the Police Bill they could not lawfully authorise the bugging of conversations between solicitors and clients who are not discussing corrupt acts (letter, 15 January).

London SE1

They are wrong.
As it stands, the Police Bill does not prevent the police invading the privacy of ordinary people who are quite properly seeking legal advice. This is because bugging equipment by its nature is indiscriminate. All dients visiting a solicitor whose office is under surveillance would have their conversations taped in the course of a surveillance operation. Chief constables also suggest

paganda. It would be something much harder to stop: à close-knit group of

Why rabies jabs could go wrong

Sir: Prior vaccination of pets against rahies would not necessarily make their import without quarantine safe (letters, 3, 6 January). Sooner or later something will go wrong and a pet will be admitted while incubating rahies. Animals incubating the infection at the time of vaccination are still able to pass it on at the end of the incubation period, which may be prolonged, despite having passed the blood test.

There are probably about 8 million dogs in the country, of which a large, but unknown proportioo are uncootrolled strays, or turned out daily to fend for themselves while their owners are at work. With the introduction of rahies, they would be available, if unvaccinated, as vectors for its further spread.

Abolition of quarantine should be preceded by vaccination against rables of all British dogs. This will require a registration scheme detailing the whereabouts of dogs and their owners, and a rogueproof system of animal identification. It would thus he possible to require animals to be presented for vaccination and regular revaccination.

The Government has so far refused to consider registration. but schemes that work are not impossible. Other countries have them. If an adequate fee is charged, a system of dog-registration could be self-financing – even with rebates for blind persons and poor pensioners. It is not unreasonable to require owners to meet the costs. This may not be regarded kindly by per-owning voters, hut could be a useful way to reduce the number of dogs in the country to those which are really wanted Professor COLIN KAPLAN FRCPath Reading, Berkshire

Sex on the Quayside

Sir: In my 40-minute phone interview I never once said that Quavside, Tyne-Tees TV's new drama, was "sex-free" (leading article, 14 January). Nor has it ever been "billed" as such,

The implication that Quayside's storylines have been influenced by Bruce Gyngell's views on Hollywood Lovers is false. Mr Gyngell has had no editorial input on the show. TTTV has given me and Quavside's writers complete freedom to produce a show with the hest chance of making a dent in EastEnders' audience.

I can inform your readers living m "Middlesbrough and Whitley Bay" that with storylines based on transgressions of the seven deadly Sins (plus consequences thereof), there is sex aplenty in Quayside.
MATTHEW ROBINSON Producer, Quayside Newcastle upon Tyne

Stone of Egypt? Sir. The suggestion (letter, 13 January) that the Stone of Scone

should be returned to Northern Ireland should be treated with caution. The same legend that says it was taken to Scotland by Fergus Mac Erc says the stone is Jacob's Pillow, and was brought to Ireland by the grandson of the daughter of the Pharaob who found Moses in the bullrusbes.

So should we not rather return it to Egypt? Or Israel? HECTOR McDONNELL Glenarm. Co Antrim



incorrectly that there are constitutional difficulties in making hugging and other covert surveillance techniques subject to prior judicial authority. It is the long-established role of our judiciary to halance the interests of the individual with those of the state, and this is clearly recognised in legislation such as the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. DEREK SANDS

Chairman, Courts and Legal Services Committee The Law Society London WC2

Sir: That the six chief constables whose letter you published expect your readers to believe that robbers would use solicitors' premises to avoid police surveillance is frightening enough. Even more alarming is the possibility that they may actually believe it themselves.

Given the seniority of its authors, the letter is a desperately disappointing attempt to justify a frightening piece of legislation. Their dismissal of the genuine risks of ahuse of their powers as "emotive red-herrings" confirms that they are oot capable of operating any safeguards whatever and that authorisation from outside

the police service is essential. The current draft of the Police Bill leaves the police so much scope to "suspect" serious crime that they can, in effect, justify bugging virtually anyone who crosses their path. The chief constables' entbusiastic welcome for the commissioner who will retrospectively scrutinise their decisions tells us all we need to know about how many teeth that watchdog won't have.

PAUL STRASBURGER

London NW6

Votes or violence at Newbury

Sir: I was at the Newbury Bypass rally on Saturday. As councillor representing communities either side of the bypass and as a signatory to the Road Traffic Reduction Bill (RTRB), I was happy to show solidarity for those with whose aims I sympathise but whose methods I have all along disapproved of.

I left before the violence, after Tony Benn's speech, in which he spoke of the importance of nonviolent protest and of participation in mainstream politics. As he mentioned the word "vote", I heard young people behind me snort and chuckle. What a pity that so many of those most enraged by environmental destruction won't even he registered to cast their votes for candidates likely to support an RTRB in the next

parliameot.
It is not too late for everyone to get on an electoral register oow: it will be too late when the general election is called. People fought for the right to vote in the way antiroad protesters are fighting now. TONY VICKERS Newbury, Berkshire

Candidate for Devizes Sir: "Saving the world" needs action, not patronising editorials (leading article, 13 January). The "violence" to a tipper truck at Newbury is as nothing compared to

the relentless trashing and burning

The writer is Liberal Democrat

Prospective Parliamentary

of ancient woodland, demolition of thousands of homes and eviction of whole communities that the roads programme continues to demand.

Peaceful protest has been all hut outlawed by the Criminal Justice Act. MI5 are "watching" environmental groups and activists and the forthcoming Police Bill will allow the police to hurgle and bug their homes, culminating in imprisonment for those with "a

common purpose". Your servile cry for a green leader (who is always good for a profile piece) betrays your limited understanding of green political thought, while your inability to see heyond the all-knowing "free" market confirms your allegiance to government and corporate ousiness as usual".

"Violence" is an emotive word and condemnation from the moral high ground (soon to be reduced to an open-cast mine) is all too easy. DARREN LOCKE London N4

Price of Tories

Sir; As I stand at the bus stop in the morning I am confronted by a large poster advertising "New Labour -New Price Rises". Yes, please.

New price rises would be a welcome relief from those I have suffered so far this year. 20 per cent on my morning bus fare and 7 per cent on my tube fare. If this is how this government manages inflation, bow could the alternative be worse? GEORGE BENNETT London N19

Blast in the new millennium

Sir: Three cheers for Nicholas Roe's suggestion of a millennium hlasting of architectural eyesores (article, 10 January). Two and a half cheers for Jonathan Glancey's oominations.

Yes, away with all the Kentucky Fried Georgian boxes which are such unworthy successors to the fine suburban housing projects of inter-war and post-war years. Away with Quinlan Terry's dreary and unimaginative heritage theme-park pastiches, so beloved of the Prince of Wales.

But spare the Victorian terraces, for while individual buildings among them may lack much. collectively they often demonstrate the skill and imagination of 19thcentury city planners, who envisaged the urban scene as a whole - in terms of streets and vistas and eye-catching features.

Most notable are corner sites, often marked with a tower, a cupola or a portico terminating a view and lending grandeur to the most ordinary of streets. We still (just) have some fine examples in Liverpool.

An alternative candidate for the nillennium chop? I'm a champion of many modern buildings because the mid-20th century has produced some real gems - Basil Spence's work at Newcastle University for example. And I would much prefer the dramatic and sculptured 1960s Paternoster Square near St Paul's to the mindless "classical"

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters (windependent.co.uk). E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. nonsense proposed to replace it.
But the Canary Wharf tower has to represent the nadir of architecture. The mindless scale

and banality of this nauseous

building sums up the worst excesses

of the "get-rich-quick" Thatcher Eighties DGBEARDSLEY Liverpool

Sir: Architects and architectural correspondents do not seem to judge a building by whether it works but according to some curious theology preached only by architects, and incomprehensible to the rest of us who use huildings.

Jonathan Glancey ("A comprehensive cock-up", 10 January) called for the preservation of a building that clearly does not work, the Pimlico School, and rubhished one that does work, Richmond Riverside "Tear down terraces, shopping

centres, the lot", 10 January). The glass school, although visually exciting, is on Glancey's own admission too hot or too cold, and costs £370,000 a year to maintain. It does not work.

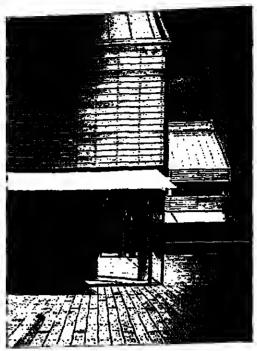
Richmond Riverside, whatever one may think of "faux Georgian" as a style, attracts many more people to use its pubs and stroll along the Thames than does, for instance, the terrace in front of the Festival Hall. It works for both passers-by and occupants. What more can be asked of a building?

But Jonathan Glancey and his peers are only interested in style, not content. He should ask the users why some buildings work and some don't. He might be shaken by their replies into a better understanding of what architecture is about. RICHARD SARSON London SW20









favoured by director, Richard Hodges (centre), nclude (far left) the White House in Surrey, and the new boat house

Learning to love carbuncles

After denouncing contemporary architecture, Prince Charles's

own institute is taking a new direction - Classicism is giving

he Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture occupies an exquisite Nash villa on the edge of Regent's Park, the sublime neoclassical urban development promoted by the eponymous Prince Regent, later George IV. who was deeply unpopular in his lifetime and notorious for his love affairs, hut remembered by posterity for the Park and the Street.

Once upon a time - any time, in fact, in the past four years - the villa and its location by the park would have served as useful shorthand for the perceived nature and limitations of Prince Charles's architectural aspirations: nostalgic, refined, turning a haughty back equally on the grungy mayhem of Camden High Street, 200 yards down the bill, and on the works and philosophy of Modernism. But after the most dramatic

changes yet in the Institute's short but turbulent history, this convenient symbolism will no longer serve. In October the Director of Studies, Dr Richard John, was replaced after only nine months in the joh by Richard Hodges, a professor of archeology. Two months later, at the Prince's request, all 15 members of the Institute's governing council stood down, and have yet to he replaced.

Now Richard Hodges plans to move the Institute from its beautiful hut impractical headquarters to a new location, as yet undecided but which, following the lead of the Prince's Phoenix Trust, may well be a listed but abandoned building such as a redundant school or hospital in an urban regeneration site.

And as the symbols change. so will the matter symbolised. Dr John, Professor Hodges's predecessor, was an ardent enthusiast for Classicism, an acolyte of David Watkin, the don of Peterhouse College. Camhridge. Under John's direction the Institute was clearly identified as the avowed enemy of the Modernist pbilosophy that has dominated British architecture since the war. It was the friend of reactionary neo-classical architects such as Quinlao Terry and John Simpson, the academic arm of the tendency which produced the (yet unhuilt) neo-classical plans for the redevelopment of Paternoster Square, abutting

St Paul's Cathedral. Now, under Professor Hodges and indirectly but unmistakahly following the wish of the Prince himself, all that is to change. "I don't doubt that there is a place for classicism." Professor Hodges told me, "hut that kind of stylistic issue is not our interest.

Prince Charles's involvement in architecture, the longest-running and most controversial of his efforts to change the country he will one day reign over, is thus at a watershed. His initiative began, as Britain's architects will never forget or forgive, with his "monstrous carbuncle" speech of 1984. Negativity and reaction: these were the crimes Charles's furious critics accused him of in the wake of the speech. Every initiative also get things since has been a further effort done. Other inisince has been a further effort to repudiate them. In 1987 bc tiatives folwas shown the plans for lowed, such as Paternoster Square and was appalled by them. Four months on Ducby of Cornwall land Royal Institute of British Archialso (Still) in charge of two House, he returned to his attack on Modernism and its effect on the City, but now his thoughts were guided and giveo focus by a group of anti-Modernist academics, journalists and others,

native proposals for the rede-

including Brian Hansoo and Jules Lubbock (who were later to be intimately involved in the Prince's Institute). The result, two years later, were radically reactionary alter-

Square, featuring hulky modem office buildings covered in

neo-classical The Prince was learning tbat he could oot only stop things, be could

later, in a speech at Mansion near Dorchester. But the creation of the Institute of Architecture in 1992 was the hig one. Through the Institute the Prince would escape the trap of being limited to commenting or taking action on individual projects one at a time. Instead, a permanent organisation would be put in place, dedicated to the Prince's vision.

Two years later he oversaw the launch of Perspectives, a magazine of architecture, nominally independent both of the Institute and its governing council, but in fact closely monitored by both, and just as dedicated to furthering the Caroline vision.

In the years since they were set up , however, both the Institute and the magazine have had an extremely humpy ride. In its first four years, the Institute has had four directors; Perspectives' first editor, One Foot in the Past presenter Dan Cruikshank, was sacked soon after the launch. Both magazine and institute an institute of architecture have appeared to be desper-

ately attempt-Perspectives. ing to tread

The Institute. beavily underwritten by the Saudi royal family other wealthy benefactors, offers founda-. tioo and graduate courses in its cute but cramped

tects. Perspectives, which sold important excavation sites, in 35,000 copies of its launch issue, the south-west of Albania and bas gone hi-monthly: Giles Worsley, Cruikshank's successor as editor, claims sales of 10,000 per issue now, but he has been dogged by rumours of imminent closure, and dogged also by the opinions and attempts at intervention by the Prince's advisers, all bent on guarding the sacred

Ahove all, the Institute has found itself thrust into the front line of the war over style which preoccupies the narrow and otroverted world of British architecture, with the Modemist establishment on one side and the maverick classicists on the other, sniping from the

But with the appointment of Richard Hodges as director, and the standing down of the governing council, Charles has signalled that this is not the war wishes to fight.

But isn't it a bit rum, having

way to Modernism. Peter Popham talks to its director "Couldn't find an architect willing to do it. I imagine," one famous Modernist suggested

cynically. Richard Hodges Is not just any archeologist, however, as he is quick to point out. Aged 44, and still talking with a hint of a Wiltshire accent despite years abroad, he was head of the British School in Rome hetween 1988 and 1995. This involved not only archeology hut also running a multi-disciplinary institution as well. (The high Modernists premises, but Richard Rogers and David has failed to Chipperfield were among his

> so on - that are intrinsically architectural. But perhaps Hodges's chief attraction to Charles is pre-cisely that he is somewhat above the fray: removed from the feverish, feuding world of British architecture, and with a clear-cyed view of Britisb strengths and limitations which comes from an extended stay

the south-west of Albania and

in Italy. Both these huge pro-

jects have involved challenges

- huilding visitors' centres and

abroad. Speaking in his large, high and almost bare study, in which a hust of the Prince is practically the only item of decoration, he explained how under his direction the Institute was about to turn over a new leaf.

"I don't doubt that the architectural establishment has been deeply suspicious, with some reason, of some of the rhetoric that's come out of this place." he said, "But the Prince hasn't headed by an archeologist? actually said 'Think columns

and capitals... Fundamentally he's saying. Think afresh, think

What the Prince is mainly interested in is the role of community architecture, sustainahility, how tradition can be used efficiently within contemporary architecture. He's not saying that the great contemporary designer-architects are rubbish. What he saying is that you bave to recognise that there

are other ways of doing things. "Norman Foster and Richard Rogers are great design huilders, but they're not what the majority of us have to deal with. What this institute should be concerned with is confronting the sort of popular housing, urhan community development, and traffic policy that we need.

is a damn sight more radical than what the establishment is saying. We're actually trying to find ways of working through the public/private sectors to look at issues that confront us rather than those that are nice but not

"I don't doubt that there is a place for classicism but that isn't our primary goal; that kind of stylistic issue is not our interest. Sustainability is what we have to deal with, which will become such a critical issue in the years to come. How communities can work satisfactorily within their built environment: inhabit huildings that are run efficiently, agreeable to be in, and where both humao and eoergy resources function satisfactorily. This means sustain-

ability in its widest sense. "An example is a dehate we ere holding in March asking what do communities want out of the Millennium Commission. We've got very senior people taking part in it, stretch-

ing from people involved in investment on the one hand to community policy on the

What sort of architecture does Hodges personally favour? The huilding I most like - the most remarkable modern architecture I've seen - is the transformation of the National Museum in Copenhagen, done in steel and glass. The big courtyard is covered by an atrium, with a series of glass and steel corridors and with the wonderful light you

get in Danish huildings, and with a strong sense of spirit, of But Hodges also confesses to tastes that would have bad lit-

tle place in the Institute before bis artival. Foster's vast, hangar-like building at the University of East Anglia. for want to use this place as example. "It's highly questiona catalyst for a dehate: able in the way it works, but it's what the Prince is saying wooderful to approach, and it gives students a boost the like of which no other building in contemporary universities does." Then there's Foster's newer huilding on the same campus. "I know it's heresy to say so, but it's a wonderful.

heautiful huilding."
Britain's architectural culture is overdue for some outside stimulation. All the most authoritative commentators and critics have fled to the United States, and, as the paranoid reaction to Charles's carhuncle speech demonstrated, neurotic hypersensitivity is endemic in the profession, the inevitable result of widespread

unpopularity.
This morbid conditioo needs to be confronted. So far the Prince has mostly succeeded only in aggravating it. But now be has detached himself from the classicist extremists and signalled that the barricades are to be dismantled, perhaps at last a true debate



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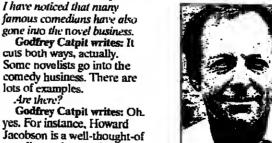
oday we are giving a master class on how to write novels. Sooner or later everyone feels they have to try their hand at writing novels - even fashion models and sportsmen - and this is all to the good. Sometimes these novels even get published – and this is all to the bad, especially when they are by fashion models or sportspersons! What people obviously oeed is a hit of tutoring in the art of novelwriting so I am glad to say that today I have secured the services of legendary novelwriter Godfrey Catpit. I call him legendary hecause nobody knows his name, and this is for the very good reason that Godfrey never writes under his own name please quote he ghost-writes novels for ref JAN787 famous models and sportspersons. Take it away, Godfrey. Godfrey Catpit writes: Thank you very much. Incidentally, I shall soon he finished writing Tim Henman's first novel, so if anyone out there needs a quick yarn spun, do get in touch. Right, the first inquiry

Hello, there

Hello, there.

Godfrey Catpit writes:

I wonder if you can help mc.



Godfrey Catpit writes: Oh. yes. For instance, Howard Jacobson is a well-thought-of novelist, and yet he has recently goos right outside his orbit and completed a series and a book for Channel 4 all about the nature of humour called Seriously Funny. Interesting. What other

examples are there? Godfrey Catpit writes: I can't think of any. You said there were lots of examples.

Godfrey Catpit writes: I know. That is what we do in master classes. We say there are lots of examples of something and we name one. thus creating the illusion that there are lots of others, even if there aren't. Nohody ever talks back in a master class. Except you.

I see. As I was saying, I have noticed that many modern comedians have gone into the novel business. In the old days they would just do Christmus books, like Frankie Howerd's "Titter Ye Not" compendium,



Miles Kington

but from Spike Milligan's "Puckoon" onwards there has been no end of these books. I don't think the clown wants to play Hamlet any more – he wants to play Kingsley Amis! Godfrey Catpit writes:

Excellent. Let me make a note of that. So I was thinking of writing a novel too, and I was looking for your advice.

Godfrey Catpit writes: Are you in fact a well-known stand-up comedian? Godfrey Catpit writes:

Then we have a bit of a difficulty there. Not necessarily. I do have exactly the same name as a well-known comedian ...

comic sits down to Godfrey Catpit writes: Ah

ha! ... And I thought that if I put out a novel under my own name, everyone would think it was written by the famous comedian and it would be a

best-seller.
Godfrey Catpit writes: So I thought I would ask v*our advice*

Godfrey Catpit writes: Go ahead. Ask! What advice do you have? Godfrey Catpit writes: Excellent question. My advice

is to write well within the character of the comedian whose name you share. Could you explain that? Godfrey Catpit writes: You see, if you look at the novels written by comedians, you

will find that they always reflect the creator's personality or his stage persona, Milligan's Puckoon was Irish and scatty. Harry Secombe's Welsh Furgo was warm. Welsh and expansive. Frank Muir's recent novel was elegant and fastidious. Ben Elton's novels have ahvays been sharp yet actually quite earnest and a bit longwinded. Ade Edmoodson's novel is. I believe, riotously

hawdy, surprise, surprise. But when if the real Adrian F.dmondson is shy and retiring?

Godfrey Catpit writes: Then he would be ill-advised to write a shy and retiring novel. He was wise to write it in the style of his stage persona. Thousands of students have revelled in his skinhead approach to life in The Young Ones and Bottom. They wouldn't want him to

writé a sensitive Booker Prize novel and they wouldn't buy it if be did. I see. Godfrey Catpit writes: I mean, you wouldn't expect Hugh Laurie or Stephen Fry to write farting, knockabout covels. They have in fact both produced stylish, suave stories

with much attention to prose Godfrey Catpit writes: So. after what famous Northern stand-up comedian are you

named in whose style you hope to write this best-seller? My name is George Formby. Godfrey Catpit writes: George Formby? If I had known this was a leg-pull, I would never have agreed to do this master class in the first place! This has been a

complete waste of time!

Godfrey Catpit will be back again soon, when he has simmered down.

Goodbye!

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elements of lt. One, mercifully

now widely recognised, is training. It is axiomatic that if jobs

are going to disappear and he replaced by other ones, people need to be trained to do the

new jobs. The trouble is, we do

not know what those new jobs

are. Two years ago, nobody

knew that there would be jobs

for people setting-up Web site

pages. Fitting people to jobs is a much more subtle, complex

and intuitive operation than

advocates of government inter-vention on training often admit.

Yes, governments can act, but

employers and employees can

to train people who then up and leave? A top management consultant answered that hy saying: "If we train our people

they know we are increasing their human value and hence

their market value. So they

stay. If we didn't train them

they would go to someone clse who did." Wise words; would

that all employers saw things

A world where people change jobs more frequently is a world

where people need a cushion of savings. People do increase their

savings if they are worried about

their future. An article by Pro-

fessor David Miles in the forth-

coming issue of the Economic Journal shows that "insecurity

about future income hreeds cautious consumers. But there is surely a powerful case for

A second element is saving.

Why should employers pay

A balance between living standards and unemployment

esterday, news of 1,300 job losses at Ford of Halewood; the day before, the lowest unemploy-ment total for six years. This should be a useful reminder for those of us who write about economics that generally cheering overall news will often conceal particular stories of despair. In terms of crude numbers, the destruction of johs at Halewood may be small by comparison with the creation of jobs, for example, from that other story this week - the huilding of the new runway at neighbouring Manchester air-port. But it is small comfort to people who lose their jobs.

Our unemployment rate of 6.7 per cent may appear very good by the standards of continental Europe, but there are still nearly 1.9 million people unemployed.

Most of the comment about the jobs figures was partisan. Supporters of the Government crowed, arguing that this showed the benefits of British economic management. Opponents sneered, claiming that the figures were fiddled and that the new jobs being created were largely part-time or low-wage. Neither side seemed interested in what are surely the higgest questions. How low can unemployment go? And does a low level of unemployment inevitably go with a high level of job insecurity?

Everyone knows that if unemployment falls beyond a certain point, the shortage of labour pushes up wage rates and hence inflation. This rate, called by economists the nonaccelerating inflation rate of unemployment, or NAIRU, is reckoned to be

about 6.5 per cent in the UK, which would mean that we are approaching that now. The trouble is that nobody knows what the number is until we reach it, and in any case the number may he different depending on the rate at which unemployment is coming down. That is common sense: a rip-roaring boom,

with unemployment whizzing down, is more likely to create inflation than a gradual expansion with the total only creeping downwards. A relatively stable husiness cycle (something that British policy-makers have not been very good at achieving) is likely to result in a lower

So far there is no sign of wage pressure in the UK, and the fact that the US has got down to 5.5 per cent unemployment without any serious inflationary pressure makes one believe that we could get back to the 5 per cent level that Keynes reckoned was effectively full employment.

That is the up-side. The down-side is this. To keep inflation down with that relatively low level of unemployment probably needs a high level of job insecurity. You can dress that up by talking about "flexible labour markets", but using enphemisms does not alter the fact that one of the powerful forces holding down wages is fear of losing the job. Britons looking at European labour legislation which supposedly preserves workers' rights should note that Germany in December had nearly 4.2 million unemployed.

do to soften its impact? People who reject the continental model of labour protection - I think rightly, because double-digit unemployment rates are a disgrace - should have something to put in its place.



Hamish **McRae**

Our tax system encourages people to retire rather than retrain - exactly what is not needed by an ageing society with fewer people

of working

explicitly encouraging people to set aside funds for a rainy day as a normal and natural part of their planning. We give tax relief for people to set aside money from income to provide their pensions, which is fine. But we have no scheme to enable people to save free of tax to provide for a period of unemployment, or the costs of retraining so that they can get a new job. We have a tax system that encourages people to retire rather than retrain - exactly what is not needed by an age-

ing age for every dependent. A third element is culture. One of the great cultural changes in the past quarter of this century has been the growth of women in the workforce - the idea that it is normal for a woman to have a job. But there has been a corresponding cultural trend throughout the developed world for men, especially men aged over 50, to leave the workforce. And in some parts of the developed world the culture has developed where it is normal for young men not to be employed. The stigma that a previous generation would have attached to the state of unemployment has disappeared. In many ways the disappearance of that stigma should be welcomed - it was cruel and pointless. But to sustain a world of low(ish) unemployment, down to 5 per cent or less, would require the rebuilding of the cultural idea that it is abnormal for

ing society with fewer and fewer people of work-

young people not to be in work. Besides, if the developed world is to continue increasing living standards, it has to find ways of using every able-bodied (maybe one should say ahle-minded) individual. Each year, every developed nation will see a larger number of the people supported by a propor-If higher insecurity is the price of lower unemployment, what should decent societies have to keep as many people as possible work-

ing just to keep the economy on the road.

We can see the prize of lower unemployment, and that is worth having for itself. But behind it lies the prize of maintaining living standards. Fail at the first test and we lose the There is no single answer, but here are some second.

Diana the do-gooder versus the bad guys by Suzanne Moore

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be kicking himself. In the week that he decides to relaunch himself in a last-ditch attempt to make himself acceptable to the British public, Diana roams around Angola in her new Born Free outfit, grabbing every front page, undermining his every move. I don't know how much he pays for his PR advice, but one of the many sadnesses of this failed marriage is that he has had to go and pay for what he could once have got at home for free. He used to live with one of the world's greatest living self-publicists. Surely his wife could have had a word in his ear, given him a few hints on how to appeal to his subjects, even helped him with his ward-robe. Perhaps she tried. Perhaps

he didn't take her seriously. Perhaps, like those charming men whose patronising views we have heard over the last few days, he dismissed her as naïve, self-serving and ill-informed. Diana has yet again involved herself in an argument that she is deemed to be too stupid to understand. It is not enough, apparently, to condemn landmines and have your photograph taken next to amputees. It is not enough to look compassionate or express a desire to help. It is not enough to use the power of celebrity to make people aware of a campaign that has been building for some years. Certainly it is not enough simply to "feel" your way through issues when the correct political response is always one of prevarication. So Diana is not up to under-

standing "an important, sophisticated argument" (Mr Peter Viggers MP). She is a faux Brigitte Bardot extending sympathy for wounded animals. The junior defence minister Earl Howe describes her as uninformed and "a loose cannon". Peter Hitchens paints a picture of her supporters as bewitched", and her espousal of the Red Cross campaign against mines as comparable to "the Greenham Common women's half-witted campaign against the forces of democracy". Simon Heffer, meanwhile, reminds us that landmines are not the issue, anyway. "The main issue is that she is the mother of the future king

To summarise, then, Diana is stupid over-emotional something of a witch, woolly-minded and dangerously subversive. The only thing that separates her from the Greenham Common women is her superior dress sense. We need reminding, and so does she, that whatever goes on in her pretty little head, what she is and always will be is an adjunct to men far more significant than herself. Rarely is misogyny so acutely catalogued. Whatever one may think of Diana, or land-mines, come to that, the establishment forces that conspire against her, no longer a figment of her parano longer a figurent of her para-noid imagination, are truly issues that appear to the vast repulsive, and more self-serving majority of us to have fairly

and an ex-wife of another."



Her stand against land-mine 'experts' proves a princess's place is not just in Harvey Nicks

than she will ever be. black or white implications. public/private split they feel On this particular issue Land-mines happen to be one ground. She asked and received the permission of the Queen to visit Angola. Such "doves" as the American and British Gulf commanders Norman Schwarzkopf and Peter de la Billière support a ban on land-mines. Despite this there are those who argue that it is strategically necessary to retain a number of land-mines, and that we need to maintain a defence industry that employs thousands of people. The ethical question over the manufacture and sales of arms is one that we are told

the right to talk about it. We can all accept that there are certain areas that require expertise before one is permitted to have an opinion on them:

is "intensely political", which

means that only politicians have

of them. They are the napalm of the Ninetics, and they don't in fact win wars. Aid agencies have for some time been trying to hring all this into the public eye, as they have found that one of the main difficulties in getting refugees to return home rather than staying in camps is their justified fear of returning to heavily mined territory.

For all Diana's supposed naïvety, her genius lies in picking causes in which human compassion is paramount, in which displays of kindness can have a tangible impact. While Charles's new PR team wanis to stress his public achievements to stop us lingering on his private life, Diana effortlessly dissolves the artificial boundary between what is public and what is private. This not monetary union, for instance. only confuses the Establishment, it infuriates them; and because they have so much

threatened by it.

of organic farming or against modern architecture, his grand public gestures have come to nothing. Diana is a proponent of touchy-feely politics; she hugs, she touches, she connects - while he grows ever more distant. She is, we are repeatedly told, not a political animal; yet of the two, who has done more for the

ing on about model villages? It is interesting that the insults that have been levelled at her this week are the same criticisms that are levelled at all extraparliamentary politics. Environmentalism, protests about veal caives and roads, campaigns around racism, homelessness, vegetarianism, gay activism and feminism are all dismissed as not real politics, as fundamentally naive. These politics also hlur the line between the personal and the global: they are no great respecters of national boundaries, of tradition, of keeping one's emotions out of it, but they all know a good photo-opportunity when

Diana, because of her pulling power, has embarrassed the Government, not hecause she supports the Labour Party but hecause she supports those such as the Red Cross who deal with the horrific after-effects of land-mines. "I only want to help" may be the unsophisticated remark of the do-gooder everywhere. But isn't it also, in its infantile form, a primary political impuise? Would we have preferred it if she had said, "Actually I only want to hinder, to muddy a fairly clear-cut issue until no one is prepared to do anything about it"? Would we then be rushing to congratulate her on her new-found political sophistication?

Those who have lined up against Diana, those who persuade themselves that smart land-mines are better than dumh ones, those who believe that rational argument is all, are engaged in even dumber macho posturing that has no time for what they see as a politics driven by emotion and gut response. Its all far too feminine for them. These same relics will presumably guide Charles on to his next PR dis-aster as he tries to save the planet in some far more mature and manly way. They also think a princess's

place is in Harvey Nicks, certainly not in Angola drawing attention to their own political cowardice. Dismayed at her lack Yet, while Charles attempts to of qualifications for a roving enlist popular opinion in favour ambassadorial post, they do not consider her ability to connect with other human beings to be a qualification at all. "It doesn't help simply to point at the amputees and say how terrible it is", according to Peter Viggers. Really? Then perhaps I can help by pointing to him and his cronies and say how terrible that they should have ended up as greater good, Diana demon-strating that you can touch a per-selves. But who will campaign son with Aids, or Charles rant- for their rehabilitadon?

Jobless in Leipzig, taxed in Liverpool 1 to write

A bolish the pound, and we would soon end up with common European tax-3 ation. When I and others said this a year or two ago we were told that we were alarmist. We were told that joining a single currency was just like receiving some useful trav-

> to pay a commission. Some said that we would still be Britain, and Germany would still be Germany, and that we would just happen to share a currency and an interest rate for the mutual convenience of travellers and husinesses.

ellers' cheques without having

That was just a fairy story. If yon share a currency with another country you have to share many other things as well. Your foreign exchange reserves have to be put into a few secure vans and sent off to the new Central Bank in Frankfurt. They will decide how to spend the money, not us.

If you share a currency, the Union bank decides how much British business and people can borrow and spend - not the Bank of England, or British politicians. If you share a currency, the Union authorities tell the British government how much it can borrow and when it can borrow, because the British government is using the common credit and borrowing at the Union interest



John Redwood

Let's have an end to fairy stories. Share a currency with other countries, and you share their tax burden, too

single currency would agree so far, hut they would say that Britain in a single currency could still decide to spend less and tax less than other countries, or could decide to

spend more and tax more. It is this which France and Germany have challenged this week. Leaving participating countries in charge of their levels of taxation and spending would he no more than a short resting-place before the Union moved on, and demanded control over actual levels of taxation.

Indeed, the Union is already trying to control our tax levels. VAT has to be within a specified hand, and placed an a specified range of products across the Union.

Union supporters say that if you are to have a fair single market that works, you must charge the same levels of sales taxes across the union. Now some are saying that it would not be fair for one country in a currency union to undercut another hy charging less income and profits taxes than other members.

The Union has already Government said it wanted to abolish capital gains and because other countries had across our union, and that states that had huge liabilities for Wokingham

The Union itself will want to spend more of the tax revenue we raise. The European Community so far takes £10,000m. or four pence in the pound of our 23p in the pound income tax, for Union purposes. Some two-thirds of this comes back as grants and payments to British farmers and regional projects in Britain; the rest passes to other regions of the community.
There would need to he a

huge increase in regional transfer around the union if we were to go ahead with a single currency. We would need to send more subsidies to those parts of the union afflicted by high unemployment, and unable to do anything about it given the common interest rates and exchange rates.

In the British currency union, southern England accepts its responsibilities for Liverpool. Southern English taxpayers pay extra taxes, so that common henefit levels and other cash payments can unemployment has been obstinately high. We do this willingly. Once, Liverpool was a would not be able to take threatened Britain, when the great, enterprising, tax-paying port. It is part of our country. sion schemes if we were to join

should pay for them. If we were in a currency

union with Germany we would have to accept obligations to their hills in a shared currency Leipzig similar to those that we accept to Liverpool. If unemployment remained high in Leipzig, they would expect more regional grants and subsidies. Britain, as one of the richer parts of the union, would have to dig deeper into its pocket to pay the bills. There would be a move to harmonise currently feel to citizens in our levels of benefit and service. The Union would say it would be unfair for someone out of work in Leipzig to get less-or more - than someone out of work in Liverpool. After all, both these unemployed people would be casualties of the common economic policy pursued

in the name of the Union. The House of Commons Select Committee has highlighted how pensions have been promised in France and Germany, but no money has and national economics of been saved to pay for them, whereas in Britain huge savings be made in Liverpool where have been put aside in employer and employee funds.

While the Continentals money directly out of our pen-We think it right that there the single currency, we would inheritance taxes, with a should be common levels of be expected to contribute to Union spokesman saying that benefit and public services the public accounts in the The writer is Conservative MP

Honest exponents of the capital taxes, so should those who can afford to do so they could not meet. Their liangle currency would agree so Britain. should pay for them. bilities become a matter of common interest, as they would be borrowing to meet

> at a common interest rate. They would soon demand some burden-sharing around the union. That is why they have introduced the concept of European citizenship, to make us feel the same responsibility for the lifestyles of nationals of other members' states as we own country.

Of course, a single currency requires a single economic pol-icy. It would soon lead to demands to harmonise tax levels, benefit levels and public programmes.

It would also soon create a need for a large increase in European public spending, in a desperate effort to even out the rough injustices that the common interest rate forced on the wildly divergent regional Western Europe.

France and Germany have done us a service by planning the future in such good time. If you do not want European income tax, then do not surrender the pound, for the one follows the other as night follows day.

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Professor O. J. L. Szemerényi

Oswald Szemerenyi once asked all participants in an international conference of Indo-Europeanists and historical linguists what they would have wanted to be if they had had a free choice: three-quarters of them replied "a mathematician". He commented wistfully that to a certain extent he shared that feeling.

The work of a comparative Indo-European linguist often comes close to that of a mathematician - the rigour may be frightening. Historical linguists. however, can move away from the most closely structured aspects of language and turn also to texts, culture and language in context: here the humanistic approach takes priority. Most scholars focus on one or the other aspect; Szemerényi focused

Szemerenyi worked with erudition and originality on Greek and Italic (the first languages in which he was trained) but also on Anatolian, Indic, Iranian, Ar-



Szemerényi: sharp poternicist

Gaulish and, naturally, on the reconstructed Indo-European language itself, as well as on the history of linguistics. He was more than competent in the his-lory of the Finno-Ugric languages and in the Semitic languages. His pupils and colleagues felt that intellectually he helonged with the subject's founding fathers, whose erudition and creativity had had no limits, rather than with

their weaker present-day descendants; naturally they were

Oswald John Louis Szemerenyi was born in London to Hungarian parents in 1913; during the First World War he and his mother were expelled from Britain and his father was interned. Eventually the family was reunited and his father took a job as head waiter at a renowned hotel in Budapest. Szemerényi dld all his stud-

ies in Budapest, concentrated on German and the classical languages, learned Sanskrit, Gothic and Old Church Slavonic, took his doctorate in Indo-European linguistics and then spent a year in Germany, in spite of many vicissitudes his career progressed during the Sec-ond World War (and a year of military service) until he was appointed to the Chair of Indo-European linguistics in Budapest in 1947.

One year laier he was a refugee in Italy from the Com-

most of his articles in English, munist regime being estabincluding Studies in the Indolished in Hungary and, togeth-European System of Numerals er with his young wife and five-year-old son, was applying (1960), Syncope in Greek and hido-European (1964) and The for permission to return to Kinship Terminology of the Indo-European Languages Britain. There followed a London period characterised by (1978), and was a frequent visvarious difficulties, lack of money, changing jobs (from business to the BBC) and then the slow itor to Britain where his son, a classicist and a headmaster, rebuilding of Szemerényi's acahad settled with his three demic career, until in 1960 be children. Two forms of recognition ohtained once again a university chair, this time in Com-

parative Philology at University

Szemerényi was undoubted-

ly one of the most learned and

original Indo-Europeanists of

the time and the chair was well

not easy to huild up a subject

which has been neglected and

perhaps he expected too much

from his students. In 1965 he ac-

Freiburg in Germany and there

be spent the rest of his life, ex-

cept for a hrief period in Lon-

don after his retirement. In

College London.

gave him particular pleasure: his election to a Fellowship of the British Academy in 1982 and his reintegracion as a member of the Hungarian Academy in 1989; his first visit to Hungary after the end of the Communist deserved hut in a few years it is regime was an emotional occasion. Also in 1989, he was made an honorary member of the Linguistic Society of America. The recent publication of his Introduction to Indo-European Lin-guistics (1996), a translation of cepted the offer of a chair at his very successful German book which had already reached four editions, and had spite of this move be wrote heen translated into Spanish.

Italian and Russian, made him feel that he had achieved what he set out to do in London more than 35 years earlier.

Both as a person and as a scholar Szemerényi was a man who could not be ignored. He had firm opinions and did not besitate to express them in speech and in writing; he was demanding and the members of his Freihurg Institute were reputed to tremble at his approach: he drove a large car through city and countryside at a terrifying speed and never understood why his friends were so reluctant to accept the lifts which he generously of-fered; above all he bad an irresistible enthusiasm for what he was doing and inex-haustible energy; some 10 books and innumerable articles give evidence of it.

In his students he could create an unparalleled sense of devotion and even after decades some of them continued to look up to him as their gurur one of them edited two gigantic

Festschrifts for his 65th and 80th birthdays: another edited or co-edited four volumes of his Scripta Minora (1987-92), a task which was both difficult and time-consuming.

Szemerényi was a sharp polemicist but had no malice and vounger colleagues could be treated with great generosity. In a sense Szemerényi's commitment was larger than life; when asked to write in a few pages a brief autobiography for a collective volume he in fact produced a short book with a blow-by-blow account of his writings which later became Summing Up a Life (1992): to him obviously they mattered as much and more than other, less scholarly, events. A brief article requested turned into an account of the books acquired for

the seminar library in Freiburg. And yet this committed scholar was also a man with strong political views, the courage of his convictions and very catholic reading tastes (from the highest literature 10

the most recent detective stories). Happily he kept his independence and worked till the end. With his death some of the excitement has vanished from the world of Indo-European studies.

Anna Morpurgo Davies

Oswald John Louis Szemerenyi. linguist: born London 7 September 1913; schoolmaster, Beregszász and Matyasfold 1939-41; Lecturer in Greek. University of Budapest 1942-45, Reader 1946. Professor of Comparative Indo-European Philology 1947-48; Research Fellow, Bedford College, London 1952-53, Ascouege, Lonaon 1932-33, Assistant Lecturer in Greek 1953-54, Lecturer 1954-58, Reader 1958-60; Professor of Comparative Philogy, University College London 1960-65; Professor of Indo-European and General Linguistics. University of Freiburg-im-Breisgau 1965-81 (Emeritus); FBA 1982; married 1940 Elizabeth Kövér (one son); died Freiburg-im-Breisgnu 29

cot A

Sheldon Leonard

One of the most fascinating characters in Jack Benny's radio show during the 1940s and carly 1950s was a sleazy type who would buttonhole Benny in various locations. Out of the corner of his mouth, and in a thick Brooklyn accent, he would offer advice in the furtive manner and argot of a racetrack tipster. One of these surrealistic encounters began; "Psssst! Hev. bud!"

"Come here a minute." "Who, me?"

Yes"

"Sure, Where ya goin'?" "Just to buy some chewing

"Yeah? What kind?" "Why, spearmint." "Nix on that! Take my advice gct hubble-gum."
"Bubble-gum? Why?"

"It's great in the stretch." This unlikely tout was played by Sheldon Leonard, a tall, dark character actor with a vast number of film roles to his credit, most of them as criminals. Later, Leonard would become enormously successful as a television producer and director, selling an unprecedented 17 shows to the American

Born of lower middle-class Jewish parents, Leonard attended Stuyvesant High School in lower Manhattan, where he began acting in plays. He went on to study at Syracuse University, which boasted a

making his Broadway déhut in a play called Hotel Alimony (1934). The critic Burns Mantle wrote: "Out of an inherent sense of decency, I was tempted to ignore Hotel Alimony as though it bad never happened. Reviewing it is a dirty job, hut someone has to do it." Manue and his fellow critics were, however, kind to Leonard, and he went on to play a lecherous millinery salesman in Arthur

Kober's play Having Wonderful

Time (1937) and an even more

lecherous movie producer in

Clare Boothe's comedy Kiss

the Boys Goodbye (1938]. Hollywood soon beckoned, and Leonard sneered his way through more than 140 films, including To Have and Have Not (1944), in which he played a Vichy French policeman who tried to shoot Humphrey Bog-art, and It's n Wonderful Life (1947), in which he played Nick, the surly bartender, who threw James Stewart into the snow

one Christmas Eve. Bored with typecasting, he turned to directing and producing for television, launching the long-running sitcom The Danny Thomas Show (1953-57). That Leonard wrote and/or directed various episodes of the television series The Damon Runyon Theatre is highly appropriate; as an actor be later played in four films hased on superb Performing Arts de- Runyon stories: Money From

partment, and he soon resolved to become a professional actor. Home (1954), Stop, You're Killing Me (1955), Guys and Dolls (1961) and Pocketful of

Miracles (1978).

He may even have invented the television spin-off. Having developed a sitcom for Andy Griffith, in which the rural comedian would play a sheriff in a small southern town, Leonard saved the expense of making a pilot programme by introducing Griffith and the other characters of his town in The Danny Thomas Show. The trial episode involved Thomas's being stopped for speeding in the North Carolina hamlet of Mayberry and arrested by Sheriff Griffith. Before the half-hour was finished, the sheriff's friends and relatives were also introduced, and, as a result, The Andy Griffith Show got the green light and ran for eight years. In 1964 there was a spin-off from the spinoff; Jim Nabors, who played a gornaless filling-station attendant in the Griffith show, was given his own series, Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C. Gomer's adventures in the Marine Corps continued for six

Leonard watched an unsuccessful television pilot about the professional and home life of a comedy writer, and thought it had promise. Carl Reiner had written it as a vehicle for himself, hut Leonard persuaded Reiner to let him cast Dick Van Dyke in the lead. Next, came the search for an actress to play Van



Leonard, left, as Harry the Horse with Stubby Kaye as Nicely Nicely Johnson in the 1961 film of Guys and Dollar

Dyke's wife. Luckily, Danny Thomas remembered an actress who had auditioned for his own series, and asked, "How about that kid with three names?" Leonard auditioned Mary Tyler Moore, who passed with flying colours, and the world was suddenly a better

Dyke and Danny Thomas, ernment Leonard stubbornly Leonard now had a record four Top Ten shows on the same network,

In 1965 he helped to develop 1 Spy, whose protagonists were a tennis champion (Robert Culp) and his trainer (Bill Cosplace. The Dick Van Dyke Show for various tournaments gave (1961-66) received 21 Emmy
Awards and was nominated for 64. What with Pyle, Griffith, Van agency of the American govafter only 26 episodes.

resisted CBS's timorous objections, making Cosby the first African/American to star on US television in a dramatic series. Unfortunately, Leonard's My World and Welcome to It wasn't by). Travelling around the world the Emmy Award as Best New stylish series, based on the work of James Thurber, was cancelled

The hugely successful film and television producer Garry Marshall (Preuv Woman, Happv Days, Mork and Mindy) worked for Leonard as a writer on the Danny Thomas and Dick Van Dyke shows, In his as successful. Despite winning the Emmy Award as Best New Show of the 1969-70 season, this become a television produccr?" The reply was: "Always

say something. Make a dec-

ision, right or wrong, because most of the people in show

husiness are afraid to make a

Dick Vosburgh

Sheldon Leonard Bershad (Sheldon Leonard), actor, writer, director, producer: born New York City 22 February 1907; married 1931 Frankie Bober (one son, one daughter): died Beverly Hills. California 10 January 1997.

Randy California

Many guitarists have existed in the shadow of the great Jimi Hendrix. But Randy California had more right than most to take on the mantle of the

guitar genius. In 1966, when only 15, the precocious Californian Randy Wolfe met Hendrix in a New York music store. They got talking, played some slide and soon Hendrix was adding the nickname "California" to Randy's name and asking him 10 sit in with his band, Jimmy James and the Blue Flames, at the Cafe Wha? in Greenwich

The following three months (and five sets a night) had a lasting influence on both players; Hendrix was spotted by the Animals' hass-player Chas Chandler (who became his manager and brought him to London) while the under-age Randy eventually headed back to the West Coast and formed the psychedelic outfit Spirit, suc- the keyboard player John Locke

cessfully merging jazz, blues and rock to create a truly progressive sound.

Born in 1951 into a musical Los Angeles family (one of his uncles had a blues radio show, the other one owned the Ash Grove night-club and often hrought players like Lightnin' Hopkins round to his nephew's house), Randy was taught the rudiments of guitar by his mother, Bernice Pearl Wolfe. When she got divorced and subsequently married Ed Cassidy. a drummer who had already played with Thelonious Monk, Cooder and Taj Mahal, Randy joined forces with his

By the age of 13, Randy was already messing around with his friend John (Jay) Ferguson doing the singing and Mark An-des on bass. They formed a group called the Red Roosters but, following their time in New York with Hendrix, added



sive sound Michael Ochs Archives / Redferns

(an old associate of Cassidy's) and became Spirits Rebellious (after the Kahlil Gibran book) and then Spirit.

After releasing an epony mous album on the Ode label, the five-piece went on tour in 1968 with Led Zeppelin as support ("Stairway To Heaven", the Led Zeppelin classic, bears

more than a passing resem-hlance to "Taurus", a California song released on Spirit's debut offering]. The appropriately-titled Family That Plays Together Stavs Together followed and the infectious "I Got A Line On You", written by California, became a Top 30 US hit in 1969. The group should have played Woodstock before Hendrix hut were instead sent on a promo tour of radio stations. The seeds of dissension were sown.

After the relative failure of Clear Spirit (which contained the visionary single "1984"), the quintet tried one more time and recorded Twelve Dreams of Dr Sardonicus, a concept album worthy of the Beatles. In spite of the distinctive psychedelic sleeve, material like "Nature's Way" took a while to work its magic and this masterpiece only reached gold and then platinum status in 1976, five years after its original release.

fered a riding accident, travelled to Britain and released Kaptain Kopter and the Fabulous Twirly birds, while Andes and Ferguson launched Jo Jo Gunne tinstantly finding the magic formula with "Run Run Run". though Andes later joined Heart). Meanwhile Cassidy and Locke recruited replacement players called Chris and Al Staeholy, but subsequently left Spirit, leaving a line-up which carried on without any original members. American promoters were not amused and the band's reputation suffered

In 1974 Cassidy and California reformed Spirit and signed to Mercury Records, releasing a succession of fine albums like Spirit of '76, Son of Spirit and Future Games, and reunited with the other original members for a concert which featured a guest appearance by Neil Young, Another reunion took s original release. place 10 years later with *The Thincenth Dream*.

In the late Seventics and early Eightles California visited Britain regularly and worked both with Spirit (still with Cassidy) and as a solo artist. In 1981 the album Journey to Potatoland was a rare UK Top 40 entry. Restless (1985) proved a nadir of sorts, and the same year California fell into the Thames while under the influence of drugs. Signing to Miles Copeland's IRS lahel in 1989, Spirit released Rapture in Chambers and California took part in "Night of the Guitars" at the Hammersmith Odeon alongside Robbic Krieger of the Doors, Sieve Howe of Yes and a dozen other axemen (he also

appears on the live atbum). Recently, California had overseen the release of the excellent compilation of Spirit material, Time Circle (1992), as well as the remastering of the group's first four alhums on Sony's Legacy label. At the tail end of last year, a new Spirit

line-up (featuring California, a 73-year-old Ed Cassidy. Mark Andes' brother Matt on slide guitar and his daughter Racbel, 16, on vocals; three generations playing together) recorded California Blues, a collection of orig-inals and cover versions which came out as the band were due to embark on a lengthy European tour this month.

To celebrate the New Year, Randy California and his 12year-old son Quinn went swimming off the coast of Molokai. in Hawaii. A tidal wave caught them both hut California managed to push his son away from the riptide before he was himself pulled out to sea. The guitarist's body has not been recovered.

Pierre Perrone

Randy Wolfe (Randy California), guitarist, singer, scargwriter: born Los Angeles 20 February 1951; died Molokai, Hawaii 2 January Iain Mills, politician, died London 16 January, aged 56. Con-servative MP for Meriden 1979-96 [obituary follows]. Celia Jennings, local historian, died Ipswich 9 January, aged 69. Editor of Suffolk for Ever (1989) and widow of the humorist

Paul Jennings, José Ignacio Domecq Gonzalez, sherry merchant, died Jerez, Spain, aged 82. Former board director of the Pedro Domeca sherry company. Know as El Nariz ("the Nose").

King Hu, film director, died Taipei, Taiwan 14 January, aged 65. Director of Chinese martial arts films. First Chinese to win the grand prize at the Cannes Film Festival for .4 Touch of Zen, a kung fu film.

Frank Govers, fashion designer, died Amsterdam 14 January, aged 64. Dutch couturier known for his extravagant ballgowns. Frank Angelo, cosmetics manufacturer, died Toronto, Canada 12 January, aged 50.
Co-founder, with Frank Toskan, of MAC Cosmetics, one of the most successful make-up companies in the world.

Births. **Marriages** & Deaths

DEATHS

ELLIOTT: On t2 January at Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, John Anthony Elliott. Memorial Service at Holy Pamily Church, Welwyn Garden City, on Friday 24 January at 2pm. Family flowers only please, donations for the British Lung Foundation, may be sent clo Geo W. Blow & Sons, Church Street, Welwyn, telephone 01438

FRANCIS: On 28 December 1996, at Guy's Hospital, London, Trevor. fi-ance of Anita and father of Yasmen. HERMES: May Hermes, MBE (Mrs Maie Clara Funnell). Died peacefully on 12 January, aged 97. Dearly loved by her family and friends, young and old, here and abroad. Active member of the NUS from its inception, esteemed member of the British Federation of Women Graduates and founder Librarian of the Sybil Campbell Library. Served as Executive bell Library, Served as Executive Secretary of the International Federation of University Women, Awarded the MBE in 1941. Funeral a

Announcements for Cozette RIRTHS MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed

Birthdays Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, Con-

sultani and Charge de Mission to the Secretary-General of the UN, 64; Mr Muhammad Ali, former boxing champion, 55; Mr Keith Chegwin, television and radio presenter, 40; Sir television and radio presenter, 40; Sir Michael Clapham, former chairman IMI and BPM Holdings, 85; Mr Christopher Crabbie, ambassador to Romania, 5t; Sir Mervyn Davies, former High Court Judge, 79; Sir Edward Femnessy, pioneer of radar, 85; Mrs Monica Furlong, writer, 67; Mr Neil Gamble, Headmaster, Exeter School, 54; Mile Françoise Hardy, singer and song writer, 53; The Right Rev Niget McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield, 55; Sir Geoffrey Partie MP. 61; Professor William Robertson, pathologist, 74; Mr Vidal Sassoon. hair stylist, 69; Miss Moira Shearer, former ballerina, 71; Mr Richard Smethurst, Provost of Worcester College, Oxford, 56; Sir Clyde Walcott, chairman, internabonal Cricket Council, 71; Mr Paul Young,

Anniversaries

Births: Leonhard Fuchs, physician and botanist, 1501; Anne Bronte

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Princes Royal, Patron, the National Asso-cation of Classes Advec Bureaut, opens the Che-tenham Catizers Advec Bureau, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire; visits the Stonehouse Commu-

("Acton Bell"), novelist, 1820; David Lloyd George, first Earl Lloyd George, statesman, 1863: Al (Alphonse) Capone, gangster, 1899. Deaths: George Petrie, antiquary, 1866: Terence Hanbury White, author, 1964; Neil Miller Gunn, novelist, 1973. On this day: Captain Cook's ship, Resolution, was the first to cross the Antarctic Circle, 1775; Hawaii was proclaimed a republic. 1893; Robert Falcon Scott reached the South Pole, 1912. Today is the Feast Day of St Antony the Abbot, St Genuli or Genou, St Julian Sabas, St Richimir, St Sabinus of Piacenza, Saints Speusippus, Eleusippus and Meleusippus and St Sulpicius II or

Synagogue services Details of synagogne services to be

Sulpice of Bourges.

held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 4.09pm. United Synagogues: 0171-387 4380. Fed-

Union of Synagogues: 0171-367 4399. Fed-tration of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Syna-gogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Syna-gogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congrega-tion: 0171-289 2573. New London Syna-gagne (Masorti): 0171-328 1626.

the Mrs. Birthday of the Roses Theatre. Towkes

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Managed Regard
mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Gue

Student who lost placement could not claim benefit LAW REPORT

Officer; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice McCowan, Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Wallet) 6 December 1996

A student attending a sandwich course did unt become eligible for income support if, during the semester of the course when she was on industrial placement, the firm employing her ceased to do so and she was then in receipt of neither pay

nor a student grant.

The Court of Appeal by a majority (Lord Justice Waller dissenting) dismissed an appeal by Hilary Mary Diana Driver against the decision of the Social Security Commissioner. on 8 December 1994, that the appellant did not qualify for income support on 5 November 1991 because she was then a student within the meaning of the relevant regulations. Nathalie Lieven (Richard Poynter, Crouch End) for the appellant; Ro-

Lord Justice McCowan said

binder Singli (Treasury Solicitor) for

17 January 1997 On 14 February 1995 the that in September 1989 the ap-Court of Appeal decided, in Chief Adjudication Officer 1

pellant began a full time sandwich course in interior design at the Polytechnic of North Clarke and Faul (Law Report, London. The course was for 15 February 1995), that a stuseven semesters, finishing in dent who withdrew from his course during an intercalated period was eligible for income February 1993. Semester 5, hetween September 1991 and February 1992 had to be spent support. Following that decion industrial placement.

sion, the present appellant was granted leave to appeal.
At the material time, reg In September 1991 the appellant began an industrial placement with a firm of ar-10(1)(h) of the Income Support chitects but in October 1991 the (General) Regulations 1987 firm ended her placement beprovided that a claimant cause of financial difficulties was not to he treated as availcaused by the recession. The able for employment (and appellant then had no source therefore eligible for income of income hecause she was in support) if he was a student during a period of study. By reg 2(1), "student" had the receipt of neither pay nor her student grant. meaning prescribed by reg 61. She applied for income sup-

port but was refused on the namely: ground that she was a student a person aged 19 or over but under attending a full-time course of persionable age who is attending a full time course of study at an edu-cational establishment; and for the study. The Social Security Appeal Tribunal agreed and on 8 December 1994 the Commispurposes of this definition: (a) a person who has started on such sioner upheld that decision. a course shall be treated as attend-

ing it throughout any period of term or vacation within it until the last day of the course or such earli-er date as he abandons it or is dismissed from it;

(b) a person on a sandwich course shall be treated as attending a full time course of advanced education or, as the case may be, of study.

The appellant accepted that she had not abandoned or been dismissed from the course, but argued that she should be treated in the same way as the applicants in the Clarke and Faul case, who were held not to be "students" with in the meaning of the regula-tions during the intercalated periods when their attendance at their courses had been sus-

pended. There were certain unnamed periods in a course which were neither term nor vacation and these, it was said, were the equivalent of the intercalated year relied on in Clarke and Faul.

His Lordship did not agree. The difference in the facts was

crucial. The intercalated year could not be equated with the unnamed periods relied on here.

The regulation clearly stated that a person who had started on such a course should he treated as attending it throughout any term or vacation within it until the end of the course.

His Lordship quite under-stood Hoffmann LJ in Clarke ond Faul saying one could not sensibly have periods of term or vacation within the course "when the students are not atlending the course at all or Glidewell LI that the intercalated year "cannot fairly be described as a period of either term or vacation within the

STREE MARK

But in this case his Lordship had no problem in concluding that in semester 5, when the appellani was on a sandwich course, she was to be treated as attending a course of study and accordingly ineligible for income support.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

the respondent.

business & city

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

the most recent detective $\mathbf{g}_{i_{\mathrm{t}}}$ ries's Happily he kept his in dependence and worked in the end. With his death wife of the excitement has vanished from the world of Inda European studies.

Anna Morpurge Davie Oswald John Louis Szemerem linguisti bern London tember 1913: selhadinaste Beregeuse and Marcasfold [96] 21: Lecturer in Greek Union, ty of Budapest 1942-45 Regan Prof. Business 1942-45. Reads 1946. Professor of Comparation Indo-European Philology Ind 48; Research: Fellow, Bulley College. London 1952-53. As-sistant Lecturer in Greek 1953 5-1 Justines 1954-58. Bulley 54. Lecturer 1954-58. Reals 1058-50; Professor of Compa-London 1969-05: Professo of Indo-European and Ga eral Linguistics, University Freiburg-im-Brengan 1965s. Emeritus: FBA 1982 mame 2440 Elizabeth Koler timeste. died Freiburg-im-Breisgau ?

December 1990.



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Jurgen Gehrels: Regrets UK doubts on single currency

Siemens chief laments 'UK Europhobia'

Chris Godsmark

Business Correspondent

The head of UK operations for Siemens, the German electrical engineering giant, yesterday made one of the strongest attacks yet from the business community on the Gov-ernment's increasing hostility towards joining the single European currency.
Jurgen Gehrels, chief execu-

tive of Siemens in the UK, said the company would never have

committed itself to investing up to £1.1bn in a state of the art micro-chip plant on North Tyneside had he realised the pos-sibility that the UK would decide to stay out of the single currency.

Speaking before Siemens' an-nual UK results presentation in London, Mr Gehrels said: "If it had been clear that Britain would he out of a single currency at the would have gone another way."

Describing the "crazy" prob-lems for Siemens associated with doing business in 14 or 15 European currencies, he con-tinued: "If Britain really decides to stay out for ever that would be very serious."

The attack also suggested that the continuing uncertainty over the issue of Economic and Monetary Union could influence Siemens plans to invest up to time we invested in North £1hn in the UK by 2001 on in-Tyneside then that decision ternal expansion and buying other businesses. The growth

plan outlined yesterday envisages the company's British sales surging from £1.5bn to £4.4bn over the same period, with the worforce growing from 11,000 to 18,000.

صكذا من الاعل

Siemens UK division is one of the longest established parts of the empire, which this year celebrates its 150th anniversary. The company's British subsidiary was created in 1858. manufacturing and laying sub-marine cables for the expanding telegraph network.

However, Mr Gehrels did have some good news for workers on North Tyneside, pledging that second phase of the plant would now go ahead despite the crash in worldwide semiconductor prices.

Siemens had previously said il was reviewing the investment following the 75 per cent drop in micro-chip prices last year. Mr Gehrels said that the timing of the second phase of the investment depended on the recovery in chip prices, which he believed

could take two years, "There is absolutely no question whatsoever that Siemens will go back on its commitment to that site," Mr Gehrels said.

Siemens yesterday revealed a 16.4 per cent rise in UK sales last year to £1.5bn, with a 13.5 per cent jump in new orders to £1.75bn. The group forecast that turnover during 1997 could grow by 50 per cent as new joint ventures in the telecommunications market came on stream.

ScotAm chiefs set to share £14m windfall

Nic Cicutti

Scottish Aruicable, one of the Swiss Re and Credit Suisse Britain's oldest life companies, yesterday announced plans to shed its 170-year-old mutual status in favour of a two-stage process leading to a £1bn stock market flotation, which could vield a multi-million pound windfall for its directors.

The move, planned to take place in three to five years, could lead to the company's sevenstrong executive team receiving shares worth up to £14.4m in total if new business reaches a required target.

In addition, Scottish Amicable's 2,200 staff could receive a maximum of up to £23m in free shares at flotation, and the company's 1.1 million eligible policybolders receiving at least £200m in bonuses.

Policyholders will also receive an initial special bonus of £75m on their later with-profits policies in May if demutualisation is approved by them in

Payouts will be hased on a combination of the length of tune policies have ocen deld by members and their value. .

The plan requires £350m in financial backing from Swiss Re. the reinsurance firm, aimed at bolstering Scottish Amicable's with-profits fund. In addition,

Securitas Capital, the venture capital firm jointly owned by Group, will contribute £45m to finance new husiness growth by ScotAm.

Swiss Re and Securitas. whose presence was described as helping instil "a more sharply profit-focused culture", will have three seats on a new

Sandy Stewart, chairman of Scottish Amicable, said: "These proposals are designed to create substantial added value over the medium and long term for withprofit policyholders and enable Scottish Amicable to build on its strong market position.

We are delighted to welcome Swiss Re and Securitas as our partners and 1 am pleased that they will be joining our new board." Today's decision makes Scot-

tish Amicable the second UK life assurance group to seek a flotation, following plans an-nounced last year by Norwich Union. Scottish Amicable is the UK's

sixth largest mutual life assurance con uv. semne a wnole range of life, pensions, savings and investment products. At the end of 1995, it had total funds under management

of £11.6bn and total premium

income for the year of £1bn.

The announcement brings to an end more than a year of intense speculation about its long-term future, with several firms, including Prudential and both Dutch and German insurers being named as potential predators.

Scottish Amicable said significant opportunities existed for profitable growth in its husinesses. But to take full advantage "requires access to external capital in both the short and long term."

Mr Stewart argued the group intended to hold on to its independence: "Our plans do not include being gobbled up by anybody. Ashok Gupta, finance direc-

tor at Scottish Amicable, said the de-mutulisation and flotation process would be in two stages. In the first stage, the business, staff and operations of a new company, Scottish Ami-This will be a woolly owned

subsidiary of Scottish Amicable Holdings, a newly formed company, with 79 per cent voting rights beld by a voting trust r resenting policyholders. Swiss Re's backing will give

a £350m boost to Scottish Amicable's with-profit fund, to be managed by Scottish Amicable Life.



the group will be transferred to The flotation of Scottish Ami-



Welcoming partners: Sandy Stewart, chairman of Scottish Amicable (left), and Roy Nicolson, managing director, yesterday enthused about the link-up with Securitas and Swiss Re

Carpet baggers left out in the cold

cable is not for carpetbaggers structured to benefit long-term investors, writes Nic Cicutti. Up to 1.1 million members investing in the company's with-profits rung will benefit from th company's de-mutualisation and eventual flotation. About 300,000 investors in unit-linked schemes will be excluded from

Payouts will take place in two

in favour of de-mutualisation by because of the way payonts are a 75 per cent majority of voting members, the first payout of £75m will take place in May. This will involve bonuses being attached to endowments.

Paul Bradsh executive at Scottish Amicable, admitted that it was not possible to stop potential carpetbaggers taking out a policy until March.

But any bonus payable is estimated at a further £200m,

linked to the length of time the will be payable on flutation in premiums are paid in. They are worth about 2.5 per cent of the bonuses sn far attached tn

Policyholders with a 25-year, £30,000 sum assured policy maul momin leceive £1,503. This falls as the maturity date lengthens, so that a person with a policy maturing in 2012 would receive just £287. The second stage of paynnts,

three to five years's time. Mr Bradshaw said it was proposed to continue with bonuses rather than free shares but no firm decision had been taken. The seven-strong ScotAm

executive's shares wandial worth up to £14.4m depends un 25 per cent growth in the New Business Fund over each of the next four years. This was described by the company as a "tough but realistic target".

rates Diane Coyle Economics Editor The Chancellor of the Exche-People, page 24 quer teft interest rates unchanged yesterday, following his Wednesday afternon meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England. His decision was reinforced by figures showing that the inflation rate edged lower last month. The financial markets react-

Inflation

dip helps

Clarke

maintain

ed with exuberance. The FTSE 100 index jumped nearly 39 points to close at 4,197.5, a new record. The pound fell briefly when it became clear base rates were not going to rise, but ended the day almost unchanged at DM2.6673.

Mr Clarke emphasised the rise in sterling during recent months as a factor in his decision. "The big thing at the moment is the pound is very strong. and that is very anti-inflationary, he said

The Chancellor also referred to the evidence on industrial output and Christmas shop-ping, both a hit weaker than expected.

Yesterday's figures showed that the Government's target measure of inflation, the retail price index excluding mortgage interest payments, fell in December for the first time since May. It declined from 3.3 per cent to 3.1 per cent, compared to the 2.5 per cent target.

The beadline rate fell to 2.5 per cent from 2,7 per cent in

"These figures show that subdued cost pressures and a stronger pound are feeding through to lower inflation," the hancellor said.

Analysts were divided in their reactions. Optimists concluded that Mr Clarke would be able to hold off any increase in the cost

of borrowing before the election.

"These figures will lay to rest the fears that stronger retail demand is leading to higher prices," said Simon Briscoe, in economist at Nikko. Michae Saunders at investment bank Salomon Brothers agreed. "If sterling remains strong it is possible that rates will be left unchanged," he said.

Others said the strength of the economy meant the longer term inflation outlook was less favourable. David Walton at Goldman Saehs predicted that it would rise to 4 per cent in 1998 after hitting the target measure briefly later this year.

Part of the explanation for tast month's fall in inflation was the comparison with a strong rise in prices, especially for food, 12 months earlier.

In addition, petrol prices fell hefore tax, while retailers appeared to have passed on only about half of the duty increase announced in the Budget. There were also falls in the prices of some high-street goods such as clothing and footwear and household appliances.

BZW capitulates on rights auctions

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

BZW yesterday joined the City's move towards cutting the cost of rights issues through an auction of the sub-underwriting, with a £35m fund raising for Finelist, the car parts distributor. So far Schroders and Klein-

wort Benson have been the only merchant banks to employ auctions of the sub-underwriting to cut the costs for elients. The failure of other corporate advisers to employ similar tech-

niques has led to suspicions that

some of the higger investment banks including BZW have been deliberately boycotting the idea. The BZW auction is the sixth to be launched by a City invest-ment bank since last October, as part of a campaign to persuade the Office of Pair Trading not to refer the fixed commission sys-

Mergers Commission for an investigation. However, Chris Lloyd of BZW said the rights issue for Finelist, BZW's first auction, proved the mechanism worked and he added: "We'd like to

The auction of half the subunderwriting saved the company 37.7 per cent of the normal fixed commission scale charged by City firms for capital for companies. This was a reduction of £315,000 in

An innovation by BZW was a decision to open the auction to all institutions that wanted to join the hidding, even if they were not already sub-underwriters. Mr Lloyd said this had attracted a "healthy number" of additional hidders.

He said BZW also had an alternative system to auctions in mind but it was "not sufficiently developed to be used". Finelist's rights issue was to help finance the £61m acquisition of Ferraris Piston Services from Tomkins, which paid £2.2m for

it in 1984 - its first acquisition. The OFT has conducted two inquiries into the fixed comtem to the Monopolies and mission scale for rights issues. The second, in December, gave the City a reprieve for a few months to see how far the auctions would develop before a decision is made on whether to refer to the MMC.

Investment column page 22

Source: FT Information

Lord Harris makes a 'load of Monet'

Nigel Cope

Lord Harris of Peckham, chairman of the Carpetright retail group, yesterday made a pre-tax gain of £23m when he sold 4 million shares in the company at 569p

The 54-year-old entrepreneur said he was selling the shares for "estate" reasons so he could avoid the payment of in-heritance tax. He said he planned to use the proceeds which will amount to £145m af-

ter the payment of tax and dealing costs - to buy paintings and other works of art which he could pass on to his four ehildren. He has made himself a lot of Monet," one dealer said.

Lord Harris, who has undertaken not to sell any more shares in the group for two years said: "I've got a big art collection and I'd like to get some more paintings." He has around 400 paintings and is particular-ly keen on impressionist masters such as Pisarro and Sisley. He

does not keep the paintings at home hut loans them to art gal-leries around the world. "I'm not telling you what I'm hoping to huy - the price will go up, Under inheritance tax rules,

no death duties are paid on works of art until they are sold. That way, Lord Harris said, money could be passed down "through generations". Lord Harris has four children, three sons and a daughter.

Lord Harris also revealed

sion surrounding Mr Dalglish's reasons for leaving Liverpool and

he would be making a donation to Carpetright. to the Conservative Party. However, he declined to say how

much. "It won't be £23m. It flm." Asked if that meant he what I will give the Conservatives. He also revealed that he was considering relinquishing his position as deputy chairman of the board of treasurers for the Conservative Party following

that, as a result of the share sale, the election to devote more time The share sale was taken

well by the City where it was 2.5 times oversubscribed. Carwon't be £15m. It won't be petright shares closed 7p higher at 598p. The sale was would be giving less than £1m announced alongside Car-he replied: "I'm not saying petright's bumper interim results which showed a 38 per cent increase in pre-tax profits. to f14m in the six months to 26 October, Group sales were 27 per cent higher at £106m.

Investment column, page 22 American faces

Dalglish doubts on Newcastle float

Patrick Tooher

Newcastle United yesterday pushed ahead plans to raise up to £50m in a stock market flotation by Easter despite increasing concerns about the choice of Kenny Dalglish as the new manager of the Premier League side.

Potential investors want Mr Dalglish, who succeeded Kevin Keegan earlier this week, to give a fuller explanation about the precise reasons why he walked out on his two previous empoyers, Blackburn Rovers and

0.38

0.43 2.40

"If it were me I would want some plausible reasons," said a source. "I'm not sure that Dalglish has gone far enough in explaining himself. He had to say something." Newcastle yesterday declined

to elaborate and a press conference to give more details about the estimated £150m flotation was unexpectedly called off. Mr Dalglish will not be attending a future press conference for the publication of Newcastle's pathfinder prospectus, a spokesman added. Despite the continued confu-

lic, who will have to apply for at least £500 worth of stock. Newcastle's owner, Sir John Hall, will remain chairman of the football club while a new non-ex-

flotation back on track.

ecutive chairman for the holding company will be named later.

Blackburn, analysts said his apon revenues of £29m. pointment had restored the stock At the end of last year, Newcastle revealed ambitious plans market's confidence and put the to a new 55,000-seater stadium Newcastle said at least 10 per to replace its current home at cent of the shares on offer St James' Park, which holds just would be available to the pubover 36,000.

profit, before transfer fees, in

the year to July 1996 was £5.9m

Sheffield United became the latest football club to float on the stock exchange yesterday when its shares raced to a big premium over their placing price of 60p. They closed at The club said its operating valuing the club at £16.7m.

101.5p, after touching 145p, CURRENCIES

pilots' walk-out

David Usborne New York

American Airlines, which is pushing regulators in the US for approval of its proposed link-up with British Airways for services across the Atlantic, is threatened by the worst crisis in its history, say company officials, following a breakdown in pay negotiations with its pilots.

American's 9,300 pilots, whose union is the Allied Pilots Association, this week ignored a company-imposed deadline to accept outside arbitration in a wage dispute that has been dragging on for more than two years. The two sides have now entered a government-required, one-month cooling-off period.

The pilots, who are rejecting a four-year, 5 per cent pay rise offer by American, will be free to walk out on 15 February if no deal is reached before then. Such action would undoubtedly ground the airline.

American contends that giving in to union demands for more generous pay increases would put it at a disadvantage against rival carriers such as United Airlines and Delta Airlines, where wages have been

"This is as grave a situation as I've seen the company face

scaled down.

in my career here," said Ger-ard Arpey, the airline's chief financial officer. "We are at a loss what to do next; accept a contract that would he at best uneompetitive, or a possible cessation of operations." The crisis hit the airline just

as its parent company, AMR,

announced record fourth-quarter earnings. Net income for the company in the fourth quarter of last year reached \$284m (£170m) while 1996 came out as its best year on record, with earnings topping \$1hn. A strike and grounding at the airline would cast a pall over the proposed matrimony with British Airways, Last week BA

and American entered the final stages of preparation for the

pact by submitting formal requests with US regulators for anti-trust exemptions. The turmoil also threatens to scuttle American's contract with Boeing for the purchase of no less than 103 new jets in an

order worth \$6.5bn. With no sign that they are willing to back down, the leaders of the pilots' union seem to have been stiffened by AMR's

record profits. Union spokesman Wally Pitts said: "Our wage requests are reasonable. All we want is a cost-of-living increase."

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Dow Jones

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احكاس الاعل



OR BUSINESS

Necessity not choice prompts ScotAm flotation

صكذا من الاجل

Scottish Amicable looks like one of those life assurers which is demutualising more out of necessity than choice. Furthermore, though the route being followed is no doubt in the best interests of policy bolders, it is also very much in the interests of senior executives, arguably more so. Provided they meet certain nnt particularly challenging growth targets they stand to be nichly rewarded with free shares.

That, lamentably, is unlikely to be true of policy holders. The final value of their policies will be higher as a result of what's proposed, hut there won't be a free shares bonanza of the type associated with the demutualisation of building societies nr the Norwich Union. The main purpose of Scottish Amicable's demutualisation and its subsequent flotation on the stock market seems to be to raise capital to strengthen the life

fund, which is in a state of some disrepair. You do not have to look far to find out why. Scottish Amicable set about a very rapid and aggressive expansion programme in the 1980s, led from the front by the formidable Bill Proudfoot. It is now suffering the consequences - a highly restricted investment strategy. This is hecause the rules require investment in equities to be backed by large amounts of capital. If that capital is depicted by taking on new business, investment performance is eventually gning to suffer, since the life fund will be forced out of high performance equities and into safe, but low performing bonds.

This appears to be what's happened at Scottish Amicable. Just look at the figures. Standard Life, probably the most financially healthy of the big mutuals, has just 17 per cent of its funds in cash and fixed interest. At Scottish Amicable the proportion has risen to a massive 41 per cent, which means it has dramatically missed out on the bull market of the last four years.

And if Scot Am needs more capital now, this is doubly likely to be the case in future. Scottish Amicable is faced by a progressively more competitive market place, and, because so many life companies are choosing to demutualise by being taken over, some much better capitalised rivals than it has had to deal with in the past.

The bottom line is that there is undoubtedly money for policy holders in these life assurance demutualisations, if nuly because extra capital ought to mean better investment performance, but they hardly mirror the huilding societies bonanza. For certain big, well run mutuals with adequate capital resources, like Standard Life, the interests of policy holders are much better served by remaining mutual.

Clarke should have raised base rates

Tt was no surprise that the Chancellor took Ladvantage of the excuse the strong pnund and some slightly weaker than expected fig-

ures to avoid raising hase rates this month. He has made a mistake, nevertheless.

This is an increasingly lonely position to take, for many experts in the City join Mr Clarke in nnt taking the 2.5 per cent infla-tion target that seriously. This school of thought is happy enough to point to sbort-term trends that will take inflation lower this year, hut they do so only by ignoring longer term pressures that will take it higher again next year. And by the time next year rolls around it is a safe bet that the same com-mentators will not be very troubled by inflation of 3 or 4 per cent if squeezing it lower

requires slower growth.

There is still a large segment of opinion in the UK that believes low inflation is actually not the right policy target. It is an unspoken assumption that there should be a target for growth instead, subject to a maximum permissible degree of inflation. This is the only explanation for the quite widespread City support Mr Clarke's receives for his all too relaxed stance. His supporters argue that the inflation environment is benign, and the UK economy is only growing a hit above its trend rate at the moment.

If it seems unduly bawkish to disagree with this, in the light of figures showing that the target measure of inflation did actually edge a little lower last month, consider that UK inflation is twice the rate of that in the core Continental countries, well above the European average and about the same as in the very buoyant, fully-employed US econ-

omy. Britain bas actually not had to do very much to transform itself from a high-inflation to a low-inflation country. We have simply taken advantage of favourable worldwide

trends in prices.

It is this stubborn psychology that is more likely than anything else to keep Britain out of the European single currency regardless of what Parliament wants to do. Not only is tbere a good chance that the UK will not satisfy the Maastricht criterion for inflation, but most of us dn not seem to care much about it either.

Mr Clarke is ultimately a politician, not a saint. He is also one who still barbours hopes of winning the election. Let us not firget, however, that it was he who invented the expression that good economics is good politics. A quarter point rise in base rates yesterday would have signalled his determina-tion to bit his own inflation target, not just for a few months this year, but in the long term too.

British company may have kept plant open

He who pays the piper calls the tune and, in the case of Ford at least, Detroit bas decided that the bands will play out in Spain and Germany but not on Merseyside. Would Ford's decision to concentrate production of the new Escort in Saarlnuis and Valencia in-stead of Halewood bave been any different bad the company been British and not American-owned?

Would, for that matter, the decision have

been different had Britain not developed such a Europhobic reputation?

It is impossible to answer either question conclusively. British Leyland's ownership did not prevent it from closing down another Merseyside car factory two decades ago.

What can be said with certainty, however, is that strong. British-owned companies are a hetter guarantee of British prosperity and British jobs than handing large tracts of the commercial landscape over to foreign multinationals. Britain's dwindling band of worldclass companies are nnt angels, nor are they driven by patriotic fervour. British Aerospace, GKN and ICI tn name but three have all been guilty of exporting jobs at one time

But the fact that they are British-owned and British-run always means that investment decisions will he taken here, that intellectual copyright will remain within these shores and that their facilities do not become little more than screwdriver assembly plants.

The economic arguments for ending Escort production in Britain, as opposed to Spain or Germany are bardly compelling. Indeed, when competing wage rates, market conditions, government support and freight costs are taken into account it becomes a finely balanced choice. But a chnice, significantly, that was taken a long way from Merseyside.

Grid fights order to repay £44m to scheme

Chris Godsmark Eusiness Correspondent

National Grid Group, the privatised company which operates the electricity transmission network, was last night poised for confrontation with be pensions industry ombudsman over a provisional order to repay £44m removed from its pension scheme.

David Jeffenes, chairman of the Grid. said the company would reject the ruling in its formal response, due to be submitted today.



David Jefferies: Said only option was to fight ruling

If the ombudsman, Dr Julian Farrand, upholds his original conclusion that the cash was wrongly removed from the fund, a move which is widely expected, then the Grid is certain to take the case to the High Court.

The Grid is thought to bave examined whether it needs to write off the £44m in its accounts for the year to April as an exceptional charge. Even if Dr Farrand rules against the company in bis final judgement, the Grid believes it would not automatically have to make provisions for the casb until the outcome of a

Dr Farrand is thought unlikely to make his final judgement for several months, but the case is heing closely watched by other privatised electricity companies which together could be forced to repay a total of almost £1bn. More than 200,000 fund members across the power industry stand to benefit from the ruling, because each of the companies' funds is also part of the main Electricity Supply Pension Scheme.

Yesterday Mr Jefferies made clear the Grid's only option was to fight the ombudsman in the interests of shareholders. He said: "Obviously there's some way to run on this issue, hut we believe there's been a very fair distribution of benefits to staff and to the com-

Meanwhile the bead of another electricity company, who did not want to be named, expressed concern that the City had still not realised the serious implications of the disoute: "An awful lot of big investors haven't thought through what this really means. It could be important for them, Also som, of the companies involved don't seem to appreciate it."

fore Christmas, Dr Farrand said the Grid had misused a £62.3m surplus in its pension fund, identified after an actuarial valuation in 1992. The company had allocated 70 per cent of the surplus to itself in order to fund early retirement and redundancy payments, while pension scheme members were paid the rest in en hanced henefits. Dr Farrand argued the rules of the Electricity Supply scheme specifi-cally blocked such payments to

employers.
The total surplus cash removed by privatised power companies after the 1992 valuation was some £500m, but it has subsequently emerged that another actuarial valuation was carried out in 1995, where similar surpluses were also identified.



Power struggle: Helmut Werner (left) felt the new organisational structure of Daimler-Benz did not offer him enough responsibility, the company said

Mercedes chairman quits over merger plans

Patrick Tooher

The protracted power struggle at Daimler-Benz came to a bead yesterday when Helmut Werner, chairman of Mercedes-Benz, its luxury car and trucks unit, resigned in protest over the reshaping of Germany's biggest industrial group. Mr Werner had unsuccessfully

resisted attempts by Juergen Schrempp, Daimler's chief excative, to merge Marcules with in the overall structure of the parent company. Mercedes, which accounts for three-marters which accounts for three-quarters of Daimler's sales and is regarded as the group's cash-cow, will lose its seven-year independence as a result of the restructuring.

In a statement the company said it was Mr Werner's "feeling that the new organisational structure of Daimler-Benz did not offer a scope of responsibility commensurate with his industrial experience".

board bad been discussed but none satisfied his expectations, the statement said. Last night it remained unclear when Mr Werner's resignation would take effect. In accordance with German corporate practice no mention of Mr Werner's pay-off

Mr Werner was reported to be the only board member to plan, though Daimler insisted be had offered his full support and agreement to the new structure" proposed by the parent company's board. Analysts broadly welcomed

was made either.

the move. There wasn't room for Werner and Schrempp in the one company. Schrempp had to get clear and undisputed con-trol," said Peter Schmidt of Automotive Industry Data. "Werner is a very capable guy hut he ran Mercedes as though

Other positions for Mr Wern- it was his own company and an er within the Daimler-Benz autonomous group and this just is not the case.

Mr Werner's departure, the latest in a series of top-level management changes at Daimler, draws a line under the German industrial conglomerate's ill-fated late-1980s attempt to diversify away from its core car business and build a national defence and aerospace champion on the back of Mercedes' commercial society.

Daimler has been on the road to recovery since reporting a massive DM5.7bn (£2.13bn) loss in 1995 after massive provisions were taken at its DASA defence and aerospace division, which is part of the Euronean Airbus consortium.

Mr Schrempp, who took over from Edzard Reuter two years ago, has cut back unprofitable businesses and exited from Fokker to help Daimler return

Offer defends tight timetable

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

The senior official from the electricity watchdog. Offer, charged with implementing the move to full domestic competition in 1998, yesterday hit hack at legal moves by the industry to black the planned

Tony Boorman, Offer's director of supply competition, In his judgement, made betold a conference of industry executives that the six-month timetable, which would see all 23 million customers able to shop around for electricity by September 1998, was tight but fully achievable. Commenting on the private protests by some of the re-

gional power suppliers at the speed of the move to competi-tion, he said: "Certainly it is a very challenging programme... hut I don't think on the other hand we should over-egg this pudding.
"It is a change which sbould

come as no surprise to anyone as it was there for all to see in 1989 when the industry was privatised. He also vented his frustration at the legal challenge, which was made public in a leaked letter from the law firm Herbert

regional electricity companies (RECs) and two Scottish power producers.

He told the gathering: "It's a rather tedious aspect of the in-dustry that memhers tend to leak things.

There's a natural reaction to

overstate rather than imderstate tbe problem." The fetter, dated 19 November, said it would be unlawful

for the regulator, Professor Steve Littlechild, to proceed with competition if the system had not been fully tested by April 1998.

Professor Littlechild has turned down industry requests that the process be phased in over 18 months, instead setting the six-month timetable towards full competition, a transition which companies have estimated will cost between £500m and £1bn.

Mr Boorman said he would be meeting with Herbert Smith in a few days' time to try to resolve the nhjections, but there was nothing in the letter which was of such concern that it could not be sorted out.

In particular, be insisted there was no serious difficulty over concerns that suppliers operating outside their own franchise area would be unable Smith, which is acting for the 12 to recover unpaid bills.

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Raytheon set to win Hughes bid tary jets to civil aircraft. Some that may he raised by US reger of the B-2 bomber, which had

David Usborne New York

in what could be the last of the mega-deals in the post-Cold War consolidation of America's defence industry, Raytheon appeared set last night to emerge as the winning bidder for the defence businesses of Hughes Electronics.

General Motors, the parent of Hughes Electronics, was expected to accept Raytheon's bid, believed to be worth \$9.5bn (£5.7bm), at a board meeting in New York, Victory by Raytheon would propel it into the number three position among US defence contractors after Boeing and Lockheed Martin.

it would mean defeat for

Northrop Grumman, the mak-

also joined the bidding contest. In the long term, the company may be forced into alliances of its own to survive, analysts say. A takeover of the Hughes de-

tence businesses would also act as another spur to restructuring the European defence industry which is well behind the pace set . by leading contractors in the US. Last autumn Dick Evans, chief executive of British Aerospace, predicted the European industry would ultimately consolidate into a small core of major players, but said the process had become bogged down in national politics.

BAe's vision is of a single European holding company encompassing everything from missile technology and miliprogress has been made with the merger of BAe's missiles business with Matra of France and the ongoing merger of Dassault with Aerospatiale. Raytheon is believed to have

bolstered its position in the race for Hughes by its purchase earlier this month of the defence electronics component of Texas Instruments for about \$3bn. The move created a better match between Raytheon and the Hughes businesses.

Raytheon will have to assume new debt of about \$4bn and issue new shares worth \$5bn to fund the deal. The transaction will be submitted to approval votes among GM and Raytheon shareholders.

Any unfair competition issues

ulators would almost certainly focus on the missiles sector; Raytheon and Hughes Electronics have large missile husinesses. As well as producing small aircraft and other deience products, Raytheon also has an important engineering consultancy division.

The effective conclusion of the consolidation spree that has transformed the US defence industry in just four years could herald an era of equally stunning changes in the international defence industry. British Aerospace would be among companies implicated in any such revolution.

The Hughes sale will allow GM to concentrate on its core husiness of car-making.

Lonrho will press ahead with break-up

Tom Stevenson

Lonrho's new chief executive Nick Morrell put a break-up of the mining to African trading conglomerate firmly back on the front burner vesterday. The proposed split had appeared to founder late last year after an EU investigation into the company was launched following the unexpected sale of former chief Dieter Bock's 19 per cent stake to Anglo American.

Announcing a 13 per cent rise in profits for the year to Sep-tember. Mr Morrell, former head of the African trading arm, said vesterday: "Your board remains committed to the view that the best way of delivering maximum value for shareholders is to separate the mining and non-mining interests."

He said the exact form of the split was uncertain hut would probably involve some disposals of businesses before a demerger of the remaining trading operations from the mining rump. The Lonrho name is expected to go with the trading arm and Mr Morrell would probably move to those mainly African businesses, as Mr Bock had indicated he would before unexpectedly stepping down as chief executive last October.

Lonrho first announced its intention to perform a three-way split last January, but since then has only achieved the sale of its Metropole hotels to Stakis. A planned flotation of the hotels arm, which also includes the Princess resort hotels in North America, was abandoned after advisers warned the market was losing interest after a flood of flotations in the sector.

The sale of the Princess lington Textiles. chain, for which Lonrho is believed to be in final negotiation with Saudi businessman Prince



Preparing for demerger: Chief executive Nick Morrell still wants to separate mining and non-mining interests

ceeds of more than £300m Anglo's acquisition of a 28 per would be used to knock a big

Mr Morrell would not be drawn on which other businesses might be sold before a demerger. Lonrho's interests include sugar plantations, African car dealerships, hotels and a range of agricultural operations including cotton, timher, meat processing and brewing. In the UK it owns the Dutton Forshaw car dealerships and Cram-

Lonrho said continuing confusion over the status of its largest shareholder, Anglo Alwaleed bin Talal bin Abdu- American, would not divert it a high of 217p over the past year, laziz, is crucial to any from its planned demerger. closed 2p higher at 127p.

demerger. The expected pro- The EU is currently probing cent stake in Lonrho, mainly from Dieter Bock, and has barred it from voting its shares pending its investigation into possible competition complications due to the two compa-

nies' interests in platinum. Pre-tax profits rose 13 per cent during the year to September from £151m to £170m before exceptional items. Earnings per share were 34 per cent higher at 11.9p (8.9p) and a final maintained dividend of 3p was recommended, making a total for the year of 5,25p. Loncho's shares, which have fallen from

One for the share jockeys to avoid

First Leisure is as close as you get to a boring, defensive stock in its sector and. THE INVESTMENT COLUMN after raising profits through boom and EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

bust, the owner of many of Blackpool's biggest attractions deserves to stand out in an otherwise volatile industry. Yesterday's full-year results were more of the same with the only two underper-forming divisions, the Riva bingo halls and two West End theatres, relatively insignificant in group terms. The key op-erations in nightclubs, sports and resorts

are firing on all cylinders.

Pre-tax profits of £43.7m were 9 per cent higher than last year and slightly above expectations. Earnings per share of 19.3p were up by a similar margin and the dividend rose in line to 8.44p. The shares, which initially edged higher on the news, closed 8.5p lower at 336p as the market focused on marginally cautious comments on post-Christmas trading which was hit by the

cold snap.
The chief executive, John Conlan, is happy for First Leisure to be seen as the sector's safe but dull play, describing the stock as one for real asset managers not for what he calls "share jockeys" He plays a long game and would rather invest for the future than chase short-term and possibly unsustainable

That philosophy was borne out by First Leisure's plans, announced yes-terday, to spend £100m over the next 18 months or so expanding the key areas of nightclubs, where six are planned, health and fitness clubs, where eight are in the pipeline, and Brannigans music bars. It is also running out the successful Snowdome indoor skiing concept from one site at Tamworth to two more this year and possibly eight more eventually.

First Leisure likes to draw a distinction between itself and other leisure giants, such as Whitbread, which are unafraid to pay over the odds to secure a position in a growing market. First Leisure walked away from David Lloyd Leisure last year, leaving the sports clubs to Whithread and taking the organic route of building its own chain from scratch. Only time will tell which avenue is most fruitful, but the Conlan approach is certainly lower risk.

lan approach is certainly lower risk.

The key to his success will be the return generated on that capital and, while previous targets of 20 per cent are proving challenging in a low-inflation environment, in real terms the company is still using its cash well. With gearing of only 19 per cent and the interest bill covered 12 times by earnings, livest Leigues is in a strong position to First Leisure is in a strong position to capitalise on the steady recovery in consumer confidence.

Assuming profits before tax in the year to October of around £47m, the

shares currently trade on a price earnings ratio of 16. That is a small premium utive chairman, Chris Swan, has been to the market but rightly so given the prospects and solid record. After underperforming for a year or so the shares look good value again.

Finelist motors ahead nicely

At first glance, Finelist, the motor parts distributor, looks worryingly like one of the 1980s stock market stars which fell to earth in the 1990s. Floated at 130p nearly three years ago, the shares bave nearly tripled to 381.5p, the lat-est storming 32.5p rise coming despite news of a four-for-17 rights call at 320p.

This parabolic trajectory has been fuelled by a £137m three-year acquisition spree, including yesterday's £61m purchase of Tomkins' Ferraris Piston Service parts distribution business. But Finelist, which estimates that profits soared from £4.05m to £7m in the six months to December, looks more soundly based than many of its 1980s

Five year record

Earnings per share (dence)

Operating profit by activity

For a start, the management has long

First Leisure : at a glance

1993

selling car spares for more than 20

years, starting in Halfords.

The combination of that experience and the potential for the business looks compelling. Adding Ferraris to the Autela and Edmund Walker brand names should squeeze an extra £1.9m

from the combined operation.

More importantly, it will take Finelist's chain of depots serving independent garages, fleets and the like to 235. Yet this represents a tiny frac-tion of a highly fragmented industry where the group's boast of supplying three-quarters of the country within the hour and the rest once or twice a day gives them a good chance to clean up. The target is for 400 branches in five years and the only real competitor is

the separately quoted Partco.

It's a similar story at Motor World and Charlie Brown, acquired last year in the group's first foray into high street car parts retailing. Claiming not to com-pete directly with Boots Halfords arm, this business bas less than 10 per cent of the retail market.

Raising the current 330 shops to the planned 500 by 2001 looks realistic. based on planned expansion into Scot-

1994

Share price pence

1995

1996

land, East Anglia and the South-east of England

The pace of growth has been heady. Assuming this year's expectations are met, profits will have multiplied over 33 times to £17.3m in six years. However, the new equity could prove a drag on earnings and the shares, on a forward multiple of 19 falling to 16, could mark time for a while. Worth picking up on any weakness, even so.

Right time for carpet sales

It is always inevitable that founder entrepreneurs will eventually seek to reduce their holding in their creation some time after it goes public. It hap-pened with Sir Graham Kirkham at DFS Furniture and it is happening now with Lord Harris at Carpetright.

Such decisions can upset shareholder sentiment and be taken as a sign of reduced confidence in future prospects. But there were no signs of that yesterday following Lord Harris's decision to sell a chunk of his bolding.

The sbares even rose 7p to 598p.

That the market was so unruffled is a sign of how highly regarded this company is. Since flotation in June 1993 the shares have risen four-fold and Carpetright's share of the UK carpet market bas mushroomed from 6 per cent to 17 per cent.

Yesterday's figures were as sparkling as usual with pre-tax profits in the first balf up 38 per cent to £14m on last year. Like-for-like sales were 16 per cent ahead and still are in current trading. The margin also rose by 3.5 percentage points to 48.6 per cent. It was here that the City bad its only gripe. Car-petright has changed the way it accounts for carpet fitting and this change accounted for 2 percentage

change accounted for 2 percentage points of the margin increase.

That aside, it was all very upbeat stuff. The group bas 290 stores and is rolling out its larger Carpet Depot format aggressively. It will open another 24 this year, taking the total to more than 70. Lord Harris's longer-term plan is still to have a market share of 30 per cent by 2000. Beyond that Lord Harris may need to look ahroad to keep up the breakneck expansion. But for up the breakneck expansion. But for now the outlook is promising. Carpetright is even saying that the knock-on effect from the upturn in the housing market is not expected to feed through to carpets until the spring.

On NatWest's profit forecast of £35m for the full year, the shares trade on a forward rating of 20. Not cheap but still worth holding.

in £97m merger Clyde Petroleum

Magnus Grimond

Lowndes Lambert and Fenchurch, two of London's smaller insurance brokers, yesterday announced their long-awaited £97m merger in what analysts said was a move to combat increasing competition in the

The deal involves shareholders in Fenchurch swapping 1,000 of their own shares for 628 in Lowndes Lambert, which is to be renamed Lambert Fenchurch. The news sent shares in Lowndes 7.5p higher to 11op, while Fenchurch added 9p to 70.5p.

The link-up, foreshadowed in a statement last week that the two groups were in merger talks, is part of a growing consolidation trend in the sector in the wake of last year's marriage of the two US giants Aon and Alexander & Alexander. Aon bas also recently picked up Bain Hogg from Inchcape and last month Lloyd Thompson and JIB, two second-line brokers, unveiled their own £300m

Lambert Fenchurch expects to be able to generate £5m of cost savings from the merger in a full 12 months, at an exceptional cost of £11 m in this year's figures. But David Margrett, the Lowndes chief executive wbo will take on the same role in the new group, denied the move was defensive, saying it offered "very significant income growth opportunities which we believe will lead to earnings enhance-

Lowndes sharebolders will end up with 72 per cent of the enlarged company, while the company will full the two top management slots, with Sir Robert Clark, the group's chairman, as well as Mr Margrett re-taining their existing roles. But Mr Margrett dismissed any sug-gestion that Lowndes would be in the driving seat. "This is truly bringing together the two senior executive teams. Obviously we are the bigger firm, but there are some existing jobs go-

ing to the other side." Analysts said the merger was a reaction to both declining insurance rates and increasing consolidation in the UK market. Roman Cizdyn at Merrill Lynch said this was a defensive move "and very much a reaction to what the industry leaders are doing, particularly Aon".

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Insurance firms | Clyde ups stakes in oil bid battle

Clyde Petroleum upped the stakes in its increasingly heated £432m bid battle with Gulf Canada yesterday by effectively flagging what it considered to be a fair value price for itself. On the basis of a study by an independent industry consultant, Clyde said a fair trading range for its shares, before any premium for control, would be between 146p and 177p a sbare.

Assuming investors would expect Gulf to pay extra to gain control of Clyde, the company's calculations suggested it would

The new Crest share settlement

system is baving to be upgraded to cope with the raft of flota-

tions of building societies later

this year, writes Jill Treannr.

The upgrade comes before the

current system is fully rolled out.
To deal with the additional

workload from the flotations

and to cope with the ongoing programme of putting FTSE

100 companies on to the system,

the number of Tandem proces-

sors used to run Crest will be in-

Some Footsie stocks that

creased by six to 16.

£29

£29

£29

£35

£49

105p that Gulf bas so far tabled, and implying a value of at least £782m. Clyde's shares added 2.5p to 121.5p as the market continued to bank on a higher offer from Gulf or a rival bid

from a third party.

As expected, Clyde's defence focused on valuation methodology, with Clyde insisting that a multiple of cash flow, the method usually used in North America. best measured its potential value. For the first time it indicated what would be an appropriate

Crest upgrade to handle floats

have been delayed from joining

the system will start to be in-

cluded from next week. They in-

clude BSkyB and Tomkins from

Monday. CrestCo, the com-

pany that runs Crest, is also

considering upgrading to a more powerful version of the

technology, which may have to

be funded by higher tariffs

think of upgrading the hardware

and leasing six new proces-sors," said Paul Symons, man-

"It's entirely prudent that we

from users of the system.

ager at CrestCo.

the year to the end of last month.

Gulf dismissed Clyde's second defence document as "not credible" and said it "contained no positive surprises, contained desperate claims on value, ignored the medium and longer term production profile of the company and ignored the company's net asset value".

Clyde said a range of 5.3 to 6.4 times cash flow best valued the company, citing figures calculated by oil industry consultants JS Herold, which had put the

CrestCo is working with the

securities industry to establish

ways to deal with the increased

flow of business from the flota-

tions of Halifax, Alliance &

Leicester, Woolwich and North-

em Rock, and hopes to build on ideas used by the Stock Ex-

change for some of the large pri-

A working party had been set

up, said Mr Symons, who added

that the transition of sbares to

Crest from Talisman, the current

system, is expected to be com-

picted on schedule on 7 April.

vatisations in the 1980s.

including return on capital.

Operating cash flow in the year to December 1996. Clyde said, was £127m, representing a 29 per cent increase on the 1995 figure which appeared in the company's first defence document. Discretionary cash flow. after tax and interest, increased by 37 per cent to £113m.

Clyde's latest defensive salvo also included an estimate of net deht at the the end of 1996. showing much lower than expected borrowings of £108.4m.

Triplex

challenged

on orders

William Cook, the steel castings

group that is vigorously de-fending a £58m bid from Triplex Lloyd, has challenged the Birm-ingham-based engineer to issue

a profit forecast following neg-

ative reports about the state of the UK and European auto-

In a highly unusual move de-

"Triplex Lloyd ... should come clean about its own prospects,

Patrick Tooher

Merseyside

95 96 97

 Morgan Stanley will separate its investment banking and asset management units. The fifth-largest US securities firm not be prepared to recommend a take-out price of less than 190p or 200p, well ahead of the 190p or 200p or 200p, well ahead of the 190p or 200p or 200 Robert Scott, its investment hanking chief, into the role of chief financial officer, replacing him with Joseph Perella.

> The worldwide head of oil giant Shell. Cor Herkstroter, hit back at criticism that the Anglo-Dutch group had been too slow to utilise its vast £8bn cash pile. He said a substantial part of the money was needed to pay for unfunded pensions liabilities in other European countries. In Germany alone this could account for £1bn. Mr Herkstroter said that though a core fund of around £5bn would be left, this was in line with shareholders' expectations.

> Barclays Bank is targeting ulder staff for redundancy, according to Unifi. the union which represents Barclays staff, lain MacLean, assistant general secretary at Unifi. said the bank was shedding older staff to cut down on pension costs and cited statistics which showed Barclays had reduced its pensions contributions from 7.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent of its salary bill. Barclays said all the jobs shed had been the result of voluntary redundancies or early retirement programmes.

> Ian Plenderleith, an executive director of the Bank of England, said the City's pre-eminence as a financial centre would not come under threat if Britain decided against joining the single European currency. In a speech, be said London was an international centre, attracting much business from outside Europe.

 Union Bank of Switzerland was stripped of its top-notch credit rating by S&P, a ratings agency. S&P bad put the triple-A rating on CreditWatch for a possible downgrade on concerns about the bank's announcement that it would make a SFr0.5bn loss in 1996. The long-term triple-A rating was lowered by one noteb to double-A while its short-term ratings were left unchanged at A1+.

 Rover is to end its car finance venture with Lombard and create an in-house company to handle hire-purchase arrangements for customers. The new division, to be called Rover Financial Services, will take over from Lombard from May 1998.

 Plans for the Treasury to occupy modern offices came a step closer when it signed an agreement with Exchequer Partnership for a PFI project to redevelop its building on the corner of Par-

• Tumkins bas sald Ferraris Piston Service, the first acquisition Greg Hutchings made when he reversed into Tomkins in 1983. to Finelist Group for £61m in cash and new Finelist shares. The payment includes £52m for the sbare capital and a further £9m for the repayment of intercompany debt.

 Ladbrokes is to launch its own spread betting operation this weekend, taking on specialist operations City Index, IG and Sporting Index. Ladbrokes said it planned to attract 5,000 account holders in its first year by targeting telephooe betting customers and sports enthusiasts as well as City-based spread customers.

Company Results Pre-tax £ Allied Textile (F) 229.1m (211.4m) 18.4m (18.9m) Antte Group (I) 103.5m (123.0m) -63 5m (-14.6m) 27.4p (6.3p) 21 8m (19.0m) 676,000 (410,000) 1.56p (1.70p) 3.0p (2.0p) ; subspridje (i) 106.5m (83.9m) 13.96m (10.12m) 12.1p (8.7p) Ceda Group (F) 33.9m (32.8m) -4.9m (1.03m) -18.8p (2.5p) First Leisare (F) 182.9m (158.7m) 43 7m (40.1m) 19.28p (17.64p] 8.44p [-] ch Resources (F) - (-) 95m (-214,000) 1.5p (-0.2p) miarcare Group (F) 47.9m (45 2m) -1.7m (2.5m) -6.7p (5.3p) carby (F) 2.15tm (2.11bn) 78 Om (181.0m) 0.0p (10.2p) McKay Securities (i) 67m (1 4m) 4 Op (3.9p) 2.3p (2.1p) 645.6m (592.3m) labe Greep (I) 22.8m (23.5m) 919.000 (858,000) 4 Op (4.01p) Osprey Coens (F) 32.6m (26 5m) 712,000 (-1.84m) 2.20p (-6.79p) ad (-) Vega Group (1) 8.8m (7 3m) 1.41m (1 27m) 6.35p (5.9p) 1.91p (1.75p) (F) - Final (I) - Interim (N) - Nane mor

Toy shops suffer in tough Christmas

Vigel Cope

There was fresh evidence yesterday that the British toy market bas experienced a tough Christmas when two retailers blamed tough competition and weaker demand for disappointing performances.

John Menzies' half-year pre-tax profits fell by a third as a result of poor sales at its Early Learning Centre stores which cater for children aged up to five. Hamleys also said Christ-

mas trading was disappointing. It said trade started well at the beginning of December, then tailed off in the middle of the month before a late recovery. "Overall we were a little disappointed with Christmas," Hamleys director Michael Riddy said.

He added that even Hamleys' flagship Regent Street store in London had been quieter this year. Group sales in the five months to December increased

by 3.6 per cent on the same period last year.

Analysts said that in addition to competition from computer games and sportswear hrands. some toy retailers had been hit by aggressive pricing from

Menzies forced the shares 67.5p lower to 477_5p. Pre-tax profits fell by £1.2m to £2.6m in the six months to 2 November due to difficulties in the retail division. Like-for-like sales were 1 per cent lower in the core chain with music and video sales disappointing. But in the eight weeks to 28 December sales were lower than expected with a 7 per cent slump at Early Learning

John Menzies' new managing director David Mackay said the problems were due to increased competition, internal mistakes and demographic changes which were resulting in

signed to turn the tables on the bidder, William Cook highlighted vesterday's announcement from Ford, a customer of Triplex Lloyd. about big job cuts at its Halewood factory on

said Andrew Cook, executive chairman. He said "unsubstantiated talk about new orders' should not divert shareholders from asking how many of Triplex Lloyd's big automotive cus-The poor figures from John tomers were experiencing a

downturn. Margins in its auto-motive division had been in decline, he said. His comments drew an angry response from Triplex Lloyd. which said passenger cars represented only a sixth of its husiness. "Clearly William Cook does not understand Triplex Lloyd's husiness," a spokeswoman said. "Our automotive business is

very much commercial vehicle related, with Perkins being the main customer. To talk about Ford is entirely irrelevant."

The company had no intention of making any trading statement, she said.

fewer young children. **3** 0 ●

market report/shares

and. East Anglia and the Souther, The pace of growth has been hear issuming this year's expectations out profits will have multiplied by the first in six terms. 3 times to £17.5m in six year, the is times to 21 min many out the new equity could pring a dem carnings and the shares, make card multiple of 19 failing to 16 cap mark time for a while. Worth pictures are weathers, even in the cap mark time for a while. ip on any weakness, even so,

Right time for carpet sales

t is always inevitable that founding represents will exente allowed how ince their holding in their transcence time after it goes public like sened with Sir Graham Kirkham offs Fermitere and a is hoppengue with Lard Harris at Carpetagh. Such decisions can upon the salder sentiment and be taken as to if reduced confidence in his maspeers. But there were no our har yesterday following L. re Hars decision to see a change or the holds

That the market was a unumer. a signed from highly regarded throat party, is. Since Relation in June for the shares have riven to the Mandridge petright share of the like an market has much to mad homely estal to 1. per cont

Yesterday's figure-water park as usual with the contact to the first first half up 55 bet cent to 5 and three as Take-for-like Silve with In percent Michaeland still as a training for a The margin also thank a perce the attraction of the contraction beauti that the City has it is easy to partial has absolute to any to supply to partially has absolute to any many counts for each area to any many many change accounts the many of the account of the supply to a supply the first account of the supply to a supply the supply account of the supply to a supply sup than To Land Hard to the second Conflict Diff Book Confliction sup Copy of the following control in the basis Entitlight a silver of the control o

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Share spotlight

Exuberant blue chips come within a whisker of 4,200 Footsie moved to within a

whisker of the magical 4,200 points. In a busy day's trading blue chips were again in exuherant form, buoyed by unchanged interest rates and more strength in New York. But supporting shares missed the party.

The index closed at a peak

of 4,197.5p, a gain of 38.6. At one time it seemed to he about to break through the 4.200 barrier. In late afternoon it touched 4,198.9 but shares were unable to work up sufficient energy, with the Dow Jones Average retreating from its high point, for the final

Even Hanson, with its sualties of the strong pound, reak-up nearing completion, njoyed the fun. The once after SBC Warburg said the break-up nearing completion. enjoyed the fun. The once feared conglomerate put on 3.5p to 89p on what appeared to be heavy US huying. It has already demerged its Imper-ial Tohacco and Millennium Abbey National, switched its year. In February it said had already demerged its Imper-ial Tohacco and Millennium

Abbey National, switched its
Chemicals operations and the

Chemicals operations are considered and the chemicals operations are considered and the chemicals operations are considered and the chemicals operations are chemicals and the chemicals operations are chemicals and the chemicals operations are chemicals and the chemicals are chemicals are chemicals and the chemicals ar

Energy Group, consisting of Eastern Electricity and Peabody, the largest US coal miner, is due to go its own way in the next month or so.

ABN Amro Hoare Govett has this week made positive noises, suggesting once the final part of the demerger is in place the Hanson rump will he worth 44p.

Blue Circle Industries led the blue chip charge, putting on 15.5p to 391p with Merrill Lynch offering support. Royal & Sun Alliance added 16p to 468.5 as Salomon Brothers decided it was the best het in a strong sector.

GKN, one of the major ca-

shares were oversold. But it was not all one-way traffie. Credit Lyonnais



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year hold, lowering the shares 12p

ю 784р. Insurance brokers were active as Lowndes Lambert, up 7.5p to 116p, and Feuchurch, 10p higher at 70.5p, signed a merger agreement. Sedgwick. not for the first time, was put forward as the next candidate for corporate action, gaining 7.5p to 130.5p. A US strike.

prohably from Aon, is seen as the most logical development. Others higher as speculators looked for the next victim included Willis Corroon, up 5p at 148.5p. Oriel held at 133.5p. It has been involved in

The last communiqué was in September when the company reported it was continuing

to receive overtures. Securion, the security group with a 40 per cent in-terest in the Cellnet mobile telephone service, gave ground although Henderson Crosthwaite has signalled a target valuation of up to 435p.

The price eased 5p to 276.5p. Cadhnry Schweppes, the soft drinks and sweets group, was another to miss the fun, off 5.5p to 476p. The shares are near their 12-month low. The market is worried about

a concern that SmithKline vestment trust, being re United Energy has edged Lucozade and Ribena, and Cadbury is a possible huyer.

John Menzies, the newsagent, was the day's maor casualty, falling 67.5p to 477.5p following figures. Carpetright's results were well received, with the shares 7p higher at 598p, despite a four million share sale through Warhurg by chairman Lord Harris. Goldsmiths, the jeweller, placed 1.1 million shares at 370p, raising £4.05m for hranch openings. The shares

Takeover hopes linger around the two remaining electricity distributors. Kleinwort Benson helieves Yorkshire Electricity is worth 870p to a hidder and Sonthern Electricity 835p. Yorkshire rose 14.5p to 833.5p and Southern fell 2.5p to 791p.

Cruden Bay, the old in-

rose 15p to 395p.

Beecham plans to sell its vamped as an engineer, held ahead 4.5p tn 23p this year; health drinks division, at 79.5p. An analysts visit is intriguing rumours are due next month to see its swirling around. One is a first acquisition, a gas and wa- tender offer for 29.9 per cent ter engineer.

Lanica Trust ended 162.5p down at 1,387.5p. It was, following its statement that it said to be either 25p or 30p knew of no reason for its with those supporting the surging share price, at one time down 612.5p. hit rumour shooting for a 35p hit price. UE, with an

Conrad group, returned to market. At one time up to 145p the shares closed at 101.5p against a consolidation price of 60p. Tottenham Hutspur, indulging in a five-forone share split, gained 46p to

Fartane Oil added 1.75p to 14.25p as rumours swirled of more deals in China. It is said to be on the verge of increasing its chain of petrol stations and is about to fix up an aviation deal with the Chinese Government.

nf the capital is about to be rolled nut; another is a US strike. The tender terms are 35p hit price. UE, with an Sheffield United, the old asset value of around 25p. was down to 11p in the

> There is talk of action at Gen Interactive Media, an internet software company. The shares need a boost. Placed at 100p the price tnuched 112p, then fell to 55.5p. They rose 8p tn 75.5p.

Pearson gained 21p to 780.5p: belped by new chief executive Marjarie Scardino buying 10,000 shares at

		Chemicals operations and the	e recommendation from buy to	o received tentative approaches. from Coca-Cola; there is al	iso Cruden Bay, the old in- Chinese Governm	776p.
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The Labour Party is about to be be

assaulted by a new harrage of

lobbying by industry and the City

against proposals to reform corpo-

This was acknowledged vester-

day by Tony Blair, the Labour leader,

in an interview with the Financial

Tunes, in which he hinted that some

of its policies would be adopted by

Labour. Although he did not refer

specifically to tax, he said the com-mission's basic analysis of Britain's ed-

ucation problems and the reasons for

its economic underperformance were

"interesting and essentially correct"

stake. The first is a reform of cap-

ital gains tax, which is not strictly a

corporation tax question but does

the CBI to introduce a new tapered

capital gains tax whose impact would

diminish the longer an asset is held.

The theory is that this would en-

courage a long-term view among in-

vestors and make it easier for

industry to find the money to invest.

The proposal already appears to have his the buffers. Ken Ethering-

ion, chairman of the CBI tax com-

mittee and head of tax at BAT said:

"We suggested tapering at one

stage but there are problems." The

CBI is instead proposing no more

than a hroad review of CGT. The

Commission is believed to see a

tapered CGT as problematical as

well and Labour is now thought to

As one tax expert said, "The Duke

of Westminster would benefit from

a lower rate of tax on long-term in-

vestments, but quite of lot of peo-

ple on the street would not. They

often sell investments early be-

A far more controversial change

99-79 39-37 6-3 50-25 93-10.3 41-16 40-37 14-16 27-30 54-56 1-4 24-19

to he proposed by the commission

Foreign Exchange Rates

Other Spot Rates

ned low to high are at a premium: For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 123 3033.

cause they need the cash."

have gone lukewarm.

Labour has endorsed proposals by

affect most companies.

There are two main tax issues at

Labour set for battle over company tax

vision in his image with the

appointment of a fellow Ameri-

can, Neil Cummins, who has worked for Morgan Stanley in

London for the last 12 years.

Mr Cummins, 42, will become

the division's managing director

and global bead of sales and re-

search, reporting directly to Mr Diamond. The appointment is

critically important in the devel-

opment of our global markets ca-

ecutive of BZW's sterling bond division, due to retire at the end of

the month, expect more senior ap-

Who says the Germans don't have

a sense of bumour? Full marks to

Siemens, the Teutonie industrial

giant, which draped the chairs in

its annual UK press conference

Siemens in the UK., says: "Our

towels obviously did the trick. Its

good to see people moving to the

front seats for once." This was a reference to journalists patheti-cally huddling at the back of last

Herr Gehrels added: "For my-

self, I have never seen the Ger-

beach towels on deckehairs." He

mans on holiday putting their

obviously doesn't spend much

Michael Grade, cigar-chomping head of Channel Four, is a keen

sailor and proud owner of a 64

First Leisure, which owns four

marinas, one on Guernsey and

As luck would bave it, Mr

the other three on the mainland.

Grade recently sailed into one of

these marinas, Port Solent, As he

marched into the local office to

pay his mooring fees, the First

At which the employee bright-ened and said: "You might be eli-

gible for a discount, then," and

started tapping enthusiastically

Leisure operative asked him

which company he was with.
"First Leisure." Mr Grade

replied.

foot ketch. He is also chairman of

time on the Costa del Sol.

vesterday with beach towels.

Jurgen Gehrels, bead of

pability," Mr Diamond says.

pointments to follow.

BZW's American accent gets louder

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Bob Diamond continues to re-

spread. Directors of many private companies such as Alastair Stoddart, chairman of Ceams & Brown, a food that will put on them to keep share-holders happy rather than invest.

cost, so eventually the profits from

increased business investment

would make it revenue-neutral for

However, this change would

bave enormous repercussions. As

Malcolm Gammie, tax partner at the solicitors Linklaters & Paines

said, the ACE proposals envisage the end of the so called imputation

system of taxation, which includes

row. A foretaste was given in 1993

The strongest

opposition to any

tinkering comes

from the City

when Norman Lamont lopped the

rate of ACT from 25 to 20 per cent,

saving the Treasury £1bn in rebates

to institutional investors. (This is the

one tax rate cut that actually pro-

duces an increase in revenue.)

A drop in net dividends leads in-

evitably to a drop in the valuation

of the whole stock market. Be-

cause pension fund income would

be reduced by as much as £4bn-£5bn

a year if the rebate went, many funds

would fall into deficit on their ac-

tuarial valuations, and companies

John Whiting, tax partner with ac-countants Price Waterhouse and

council member of the Chartered In-

stitute of Taxation, argues that if an

incoming government cuts ACT to

10 per cent, it could fund a 10 per

would have top them up.

This would cause an enormous

the Treasury.

cent basic rate of income tax with-

However, Mark Govder, director

that companies want a stable system. Unless there is a major reason for departing from the imputation system - which we don't see - we would like it to be kept."

He would favour the ACE system as the best option if Britain were starting from a clean sheet of paper and if other countries were going down the same route. But the only possible reason he could see for such a fundamental change was a possible adverse decision from the European Court of Justice, where Hoechst and Pirelli are alleging unlawful discrimination under European law. A European subsidiary of a UK company does not pay ACL but a UK subsidiary of a European

ly get into office they are going to find out how things work, and not rely on papers by the IFS."

out doing anything else. But be questioned wbether people were "attacking the symptoms rather than the cause". Nevertheless, the perception that shape BZW's Global Markets Di-

dividends are bad is still widedistribution business, say they do not wish to float because of the pressure

of the Centre for Tomorrow's Company, which is seeking to promote sustainable growth in business, said "In the 1970s, business managers used to say they'd love to do it but the unions would not let them; now, they say they'd love to do it, hut the City won't let them."

Mr Etherington, of the CBI tax committee, said "The CBI view is

company does. The strongest opposition to any Labour tinkering with ACT comes from City institutions. Mr McHugo of the ABL referring to the the impact on the valuation of pension funds, said: "This could be a vicious circle for industry. Any idea of phasing it out over 10 years seems

to concede that it is damaging."

Anne Robinson, director of the National Association of Pension Funds, disputed the claim that there is a link between retained-profits and investment, saying: "Evidence for the advantages of retained profits is not robust. In countries like Germany it is looking rather unattractive at the moment." She added "What is the compelling reason for changing it? When Labour actual-

Seconds later he looked up and admitted: "Er, no you don't. Now that's what I call commendable attention to costs. Jean-Marie Dru, a French advertising guru, has had a little linguistic trouble with his latest book, Disruption, about how to get ahead by upsetting conven-

this is Tesco, Mr Dru enthuses. Tesco has even opened what it refers to as 'metro convenience stores', which as their name implies, are located in commuter Indeed. With Tony Smith, chief exrail stations."

tions. Among the companies doing

The name might imply it, my dear Jean-Marie, but Tesco metros have rien to do with the French "metros" or railways and

Write out a hundred times: Tesco Metros are simply smaller city centre stores."

Lord Harris has three sons and a daughter - so who shall inherit his carpet empire? Despite being only 54, the Carpetright boss is already preparing to avoid inheri-tance tax. Hence his sale of shares yesterday. But in spite of having three of his children in the business he denies that he is grooming a dynasty.

Martin Harris, 27, the com-

pany's marketing manager, was again wheeled out yesterday to make a presentation, and Lord Harris admits the callow youth may be on the board before

long". However, he added: "I think they've got a lot to learn and I'm going to be here another 10 years

Damien McCrystal. former Daily Telegraph City diarist, has jacked in his job as press spokesman at UBS after just 11 months - but where is he going?

'There are irons in fires," says Damien mysteriously, after leaving his job on Tuesday night. "I'm going to stay in PR, and I hope to say what soon. There are one or two unresolved issues with the bank which bave to be resolved before I can say anything." We wait with baited breath.

John Willcock

The system is biased against investment, says one side. Governments should not meddle with it, says the other. Peter Rodgers and Roger Trapp examine the arguments

Next week the Commission on Public Policy and British Business, set up by the Labour-leaning Instiis the reform of corporation tax it- investment, or whether government over at least 10 years, to reduce the tute for Public Policy Research, is self. The basic logic is similar - the to recommend extensive changes in belief that the present tax system encornoration tax. courages companies to distribute profit to shareholders as dividends. But although the changes are

hacked by some top tax experts, inrather than retain it for investment. cluding the Institute for Fiscal Stud-This bias is a long standing theme of the IFS, perhaps the best known ies, they are strongly opposed by City independent tax experts in the UK, and influential advocates of reinstitutions and by many companies. The commission, which includes

well known businessmen such as David Sainsbury, George Simpson Labour has been guarded about its corporate tax plans, beyond pledging a windfall tax on privatised companies. Mr Blair has denied sugof GEC and Lord Hollick of United News and Media, is however expected to have a strong influence on Labour policy.

Money kept in a company is in effect taxed at a higher rate

gestions that Labour plans other tax-raising moves against industry. But he could reform corporation tax in a self-financing way, without adding to the overall burden on industry. This is what the Commission wants.

Furthermore, Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, has cited with approval a study of the claimed tax bias towards dividends which was started two years ago by Stephen Dorrell, then Financial Secretary to the Treasury, hut blocked by City

and industry opposition. In its classical form, the argument about whether capital markets should be seen as an unfettered mechanism for recycling cash through the City - in the form of dividends - from companies with surpluses to those in need of money for

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should interfere with the process. Benedict MeHugo, bead of tax at the Association of British Insurers, spoke for many specialists when be said: "The tax system should be neutral, neither encouraging nor dis-couraging distribution of profits, which is a matter of commercial

policy. However, the IFS, the commission and many academics and tax experts think the system is not neutral. and discriminates against investment. To solve this problem, the Commission has backed the IFS proposal for a new allowance for corporate equity (ACE).

At present, money kept in a company is in effect taxed at a higher rate than if it is distributed as a dividend. This is because if it is paid out as a dividend, the company pays advance corporation tax before distributing it. But tax exempt investors - especially the pension funds - elaim a rebate of the ACT, which is fundamentally an advance payment of income tax, collected by the company.

The net result is to reduce the effective rate of tax on dividends to below the 33 per cent corporation tax paid on profits that are retained. One side effect is that it is actually cheaper to finance investment out of deht, where the interest is taxdeductible, rather than equity.

Under the ACE proposal, the tax bias in favour of dividends would be ended, by giving retained profits an allowance against corporation tax. The allowance would be based on the notional interest the retained money would earn for the company.

The commission suggests the change should be phased in slowly,

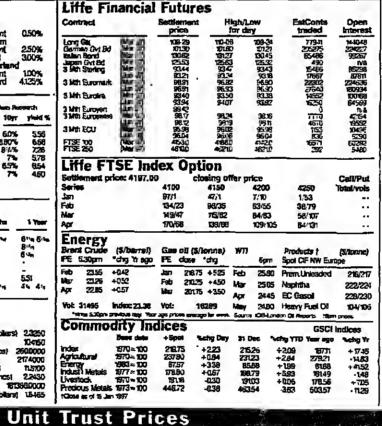


Interest Rates

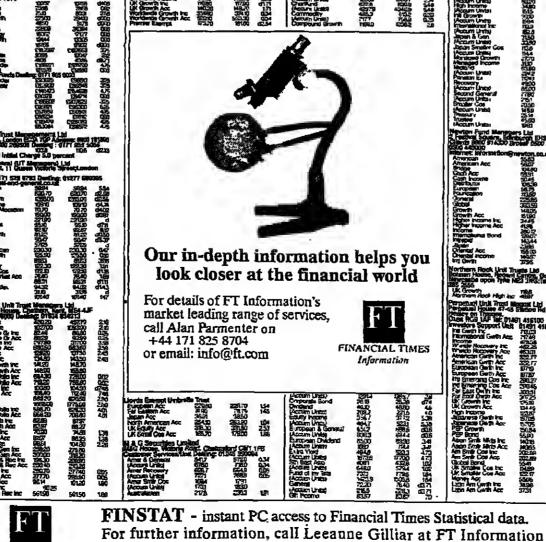
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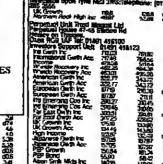
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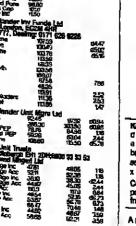
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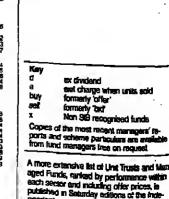
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THE INDEPENDENT

Seconds later he handed up as admitted: "Er, no you don't Most that's what I call comment able affention to costs. Jean-Marie Dru. 2 French 500 a. tising guru, has cad a hitly by guistic trouble with he latest book, Distriction, about hos to get ahead by appearing comes tions. Among the companies this is Tesco. Mr Downline do Tesco has even aprindular

refers to as metry memorial Stores, which as their name impars, and income to community The name might imply it as dear Jean-Marie, but Town the res have nearly a with the French metres or talagon

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GREG WOOD Ernie Pick, owner of the former champion hurdler Alderbrook, was a surprised and annoyed man yesterday as he digested a report that the stable lad who looked after his horse at Kim Bailey's yard in Lambourn had

Racing

bribe to stop him winning. The first approach was made to Cbris Robinson hefore Alderbrook's victory in the 1995 Champion Hurdle, and the second before he was due to run in the Martell Hurdle at Aintree last April. Both offers were re- pect them to do it.

twice been offered a £3,000

What was perplexing Pick, however, was that while Robinson had told Bailey of the attempted bribery, and the trainer had immediately passed the information on to both the Jockey Cluh's security department and the local police, Pick himself knew nothing of the mat-ter until yesterday's Racing Post

It is not so long since the aver-

age racing administrator be-

lieved that marketing was what

the domestics did in order to re-

stock the pantry. The arrival of

the British Horseracing Board.

however, was followed shortly

afterwards by the birth of its

Marketing department, and

three years on, the small team

headed by Lee Richardson is ea-

ger to celebrate its achieve-

are those in racing who stub-

their efforts, writes Greg Wood.

veiled the BHB's marketing

placing particular emphasis on

arresting the decline in racing's

sbare of the off-course betting

Richardson yesterday un-

dropped onto his doormat. "I couldn't helieve it," he suid yesterday, "I thought the newspaper people had delivered the Sun by mistake."

Since his training bills amounted to more than £200 per week, Pick believes - and few would disagree - that he should have been made aware of the threats to his horse's wellbeing. "Kim Bailey has made a serious mistake with regard to his communication skills," the owner said. "It certainly leaves a had taste. I'd like to know why. and I'd also like to know why he hasn't rung me today. If I'm paying somebody to do a job, I ex-

You've got a problem with trainers anyway, they're in a world of their own, and they don't like people asking too many questions. But I'm the sort of person who does ask ques-

Bailey himself was unavailable for comment yesterday.
One query which the owner would like answered is why

as frivolous as it seems - pre-

vious studies from the same

source have generated wide-

and Richardson calculates the

years has brought income of al-

crease his budget, and con-

vinced that the 16-1 ratio of

return to investment can be

...... Storey __A Magaire

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D Bridgmeter ...D J Mortati

Indeed, all output from the

spread media exposure.

Quest for Superbet

ments, not least because there department is carefully costed.

bornly refuse to appreciate £1m invested over the last three

strategy for the next three years, and sponsors. He is keen to in-

market. Other projects include maintained. The BHB should

HYPERION

1.00 Ardent Love 1.30 Soldat 2.00 Into The Red 2.30

■ Understing course, Run-in of two furiouss.
■ Course is north of town of B6461, ADBERSTON: Club 510; Paddock 57 [OAPs 54, accompanied under-16s free). CAB PARK: Free.

BLINESRED FIRST TIME: None.
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Nazzero (2.00) had been sent 977 miles by
W Torner from Cornon Derdonn, Somerset; Tellicherry (1.00) & Poll Of Orns

(2,00) have been sent 332 miles by Miss H Rough from Lockings, Oxford-shire; April Seventh (3,30) has been sent 330 stiles by J Neville from New

1.00 EBF TATTERSALLS NOVICE CHASE (QUALIFIER)

- 2 declared -

BETTHIC: 6-4 Societog Gold, 9-4 Artlant Love, 7-2 Tollicherry, 8-1 College Lake,

1.30 GLASSEDIN SCOTTISH HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 470 2m 110yds

∠ (CLASS E) £5,000 added m

50-1412 SEERING GOLD (37) (C) J Bardey 8 11 8

OPS-PUB ESSABLEST (201) J Dodds 9 10 10 0/000- GAME PORT (201) 0 Lamb 8 10 10

400PD4 OLD BETSY (250) Mrs \$ Smith 7 10 10

3434-44 TELLICHERRY (30) Mes H Wright B 10 10... WEELUNPAWED Mrs J Storey 7 10 10.....

5213 JACKSON PARK (32) (D) T Electrity 11 5.... D CRY BABY (82) A Writiers 11 (

Home Counties 3.00 Lord Dorcet 3.30 Alzulu

Bailey: Trained Alderbrook

Alderbrook story angers Pick

Robinson should suddenly decide to tell his story now, almost two years after the first attempt was made to bribe him. That attempt occurred short-

ly after Alderbrook's victory in the Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton, before which he had been supported at odds as long as 50-1 to win the Champion Hurdle and some bookies, it seems, were very keen that be should not appear at Chel-

Jockey Club gives Lower a lift

racing; a study involving both the Tote and Ladbrokes into the Jonothan Lower, hanned from race riding since he was found to long-awaited Lottery-style Suhave diabetes last June, will be back perbet; and a report compiled on the track if he can prove his fitby an anthropologist into eti-quette and behaviour at the ness in medical monitoring during the next six months. races. This last idea is not quite

The Jockey Club said yesterday it will consider an application from Lower for a jockey's licence if doctors give the go ahead, Lower has continued to work for

Martin Pipe, riding out and schooling, and bas taken part in racecourse gallops at Newhury and Exeler. 'It's good news and encouraging," he said. "I had been told I would never ride again."

most £16m into the sport Woodlands Genhire, a 100-1 through new owners, racegoers shot, caused a major upset at Taunton yesterday. The 12-year-old was carrying 44lb more than his true bandicap weight and was winning his first race for nearly four a promotional push for evening give bim a chance to prove it. years.

BETTPNS: 11-10 Sokist, 7-2 Meckeen Park, 4-1 Rossel, 7-1 Donbie Agest, 8-1 Mehemi son, 12-1 J J Baboo, 26-1 Sousse, Dosbie Dash, 20-1 others

2.00 SCOTTISH BORDERS NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £30,000 added 4m

DOUBLE ASENT I Howard Johnson 11 0 ..

54 11 BABOO (82) M Hammond 11 D.

MAPLETON (82) Mrs S Smith 110 .

CA MELTENSSON (48) 11 Hammond 11 0 ...

6 MOUNTAIN DREAM (21) R Alan 11 0...

OG PERPETUAL DEHT (32) / Quert 10 9 OD SOUSSE (32) Mrs M Revely 10 9.....

3/1214-3 LO STREGONE (48) T Tate 11 11 11_

3211-U2 ASTRUCS (FR) (32) 1 FroGerald S 100 ...

11 81/7(32-) PONK GON (27) (C) (D) M H

1/11F1-3 ST MELLION FARWAY (41) D Nicholson B 10 9.

011f-51 SEVEN TOWERS (46) 4C) Us 11 Rosein B 10 0 ___

12 00-66F0 GREEDWILL RAFFLES CIRI Mess Lucyon V Russell 11 10 0 ... M Poster V

Asonys Sig 7th, Sector Founts Sig 5th, Mory-Sido 951 42, Prix Gin 951 20, Greenful Par-fies 8st 13th, Sido Of 1917 751 8th. BETTRUE 4-1 into The Red, 9-2 Le Stregone, 6-1 55 Mellion Fairway, 6-1 Seven Towers, 7-1 Whast Fettle, 8-1 Astings, Full Of Cats, 10-1 Mazzaro, 12-1 Mony-Sido, Pink, Gin, 20-1 Callida Boy, 33-1 Greechill Ruffles, Sido Of Hit

2.30 TEM DOODY MOREBATTLE LIMITED HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,000 added 2m 110yds

151-354 MARCHANT MING (27) (D) M Plansmard 5 10 8

7 O15/113. ARAGON SYR (2019) (CEA P Margaroth 9 10 D

04-0604 JAZEAN (FR) (32) (D) R Alan 9 10 0 _____

641-3F4 HOME COUNTIES (48) (C) (D) 0 Morbal 8 11 7 ______ D J Morbal 9 32-4115 DIRECT ROUTE (41) (C) (D) J H Johnson 6 10 12 ______ P Carbony

tenham. Fourteen months lat- measures since the notorious er, after Alderbrook's defeat by Doneaster dopings in 1990 Collier Bay in the Champion. Robinson says he was again offered money, this time to ensure at a race track, particularly on that the horse would not win at Aintree. It transpired, though. that Alderbronk could not run at Liverpool because of fast

ground. The police were informed of the second approach, and an attempt made to ensuare those involved - described vesterday in a splendidly Victorian turn-of-phrase as "local ne er-do-wells". by Roger Buffham, the Jockey Club's head of security.

David Pipe, the Club's director of public affairs, said: "As far as I know, the matter is now closed, which is a pity because we would have been very happy to get three guys in the dock at Reading Crown Court. Chris Robinson acted very responsibly. It is just a pity we did not get a result."

As Pipe also pointed out, the plot did not succeed, and it is

mean that it would now be very difficult to nobble a horse Grand National day.

Skulduggery after midnight in the stahleyard, however, is another matter, and it may well be that Pick has Robinson's honesty to thank for the Champion Hurdle trophy sitting on his mantlepiece.
It is a shame that the people

who tried to get at Alderbrook were not arrested and prosecuted, but one further question must be why it is that the Jockcy Club itself seems reluctant to take any further action against the people involved.

The Club appears well aware of their identities, not to mention the fact that there are three of them, and if nothing else, could surely warn them off, that is, ban them from all racecourses. This is something which should give pause for thought not just to Ernie Pick. true that improved security but to anyone who enjoys a bet.

Post finds Life tough

The stakes have been raised in the war for supremacy between the Sponing Life and the lossmaking. Maktoum-subsidised Racing Post. And betting shops became the battle's new front line with yesterday's first publicacion of an edition tailormade for shops, writes Ian

The Life - stealing a head start on the Post, which introduces its own broadsheet display edition on Monday - yesterday included a new section designed

for betting shop walls. David Annatt, general mangone live to get reaction so that any changes can be incorporated in the next edition on Mon-

Mr C Booner (3)

Derak Byrne P Nives

.... B Ferto

..... Colleghan

afford to lose. For years the Life has been constrained, in producing a consumer edition, by the need to satisfy bookmaker customers. When we went to a second

section last year we tried to cater for racegoers and bookmakers and fell between two stooks. Now we bave a bespoke product." Michael Harris, chief execu-

tive of the Post, said: "The Life has not been able to service the needs of bookmakers. We have produced something tailormade for betting shops.

"The reader needs a readerager of the Life, said: "We bave friendly tabloid Post but the punter and bookmaker need something different. This Life 'spoiler' has not fazed us. They day. The betting shop market is have been panicked into pronever going to be as profitable ducing a mirror-image, which I again, but it's a market we can't would say is not nearly as good,"

Athinum weight: 10st, The handtop weight; lattle 9st 13th, Common Sound 9st 9th, Ingertrain 8st 7th. RETTIME: 3-1 Haths Breaze, 4-1 Direct Route, 9-2 Marchaet Ming, 5-1 Uncle Doug, 7-1 Aurgian Ayr, Horne Counties, 10-1 Tiornton Gate, 12-1 Counties Sound, 16 lattle, 25-1 lagistoolen

3.00 ANDREW HAMILTON & CO. RUTHERFORD HAND-ICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £8,500 added 2m 1f 02/2044 SYBBLEN (27) J Fricands 11 12 0 P Carberry U123-3F LORD DOGGET (41) I Changon 7 11 12 A Dobbin

2 U123-3F LIMBD DOBECT (41) 1 Draston 7 11 12 A Dobbins
3 34125-4 WEE RIVER (41) EXD (Abore 8 11 4 A Dobbins
4 2-31133 REEAL ROMPER (45) (D) Ms. 5 Smith 9 10 5 Richard Suitet
5 552-644 ONE FOR THE POT (28) (RF) Ms. A Magriton 12 10 D MF Powler
6 534-512 UNCLE REER (44) Ms. Londa V Reser 7 10 0 MF Powler
Minimum weight 10st. Two handless weight Der For Rhe Pot 9st 13th. Uncle Start 9st 9st
RETTRISC 13-8 Land Dornet, 3-3 Wee River, 7-2 Sybillin, 6-3 Regail Rempér, 12-1
One For The Pot, 16-1 Uncle Bert

	3.30	EBF 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIE E) £3,000 added 2m 2f	ER) (CLASS
1		AZULU (27) J FigGeral 5 11 10	P Carberry
2		APREL SEVENTH (SER J Novele 6 11 0	
3		HORES BROOK PT7) R Man 511 0	
4		CHEAT GABLE (273) 0 HOTEL 6 11 0	
5		JUDICIOUS NORMAN (49) J Agam 5 11 0	
5	000	KINGS HIGH (7) W Kemp 7 11 0.	S McDowerd
7		MANE A BUCK (25) L Lungs 7 11 0	
В		MALTA MAK (46) P Chessbrough 7 11 0	
9		MYTHICAL APPROACH (34) 0 Nicrolem 7 11 0	
10	11-	MORDIC PRINCE (422) TTap 6 11 0	R Contity
11		PERSUASIVE TALENT (\$8) 0 Lamb 6 11 0	
12		REVOLT (34) T Exterby 5 11 0	
13	5-0	SMIDDY LAD (45) R Sivels 8 11 0	
14	OP.	SOUSCERTH (399) J Baroley 6 11 0	A Thoroton
15	50	SUMMY LETTH (48) P MOTRIC 6 11 0	
15	025-4	THE SHAPPOW LEGEND (34) J Section 5 11 0	B Storey
17	0	BLUE CHECKER (89) Mes M Minger 6 10 9	P Nives
18	0.000	GLACIAL GIRL (207) D Alder 5 10 9	
19		MY MAYOURNEEN MS 5 Bradburne 5 10 9	
		- 19 declared -	

RACING RESULTS

1.30: 1. ZACAROON (D Biggs) 12-1; 2-Labudd 8-1: 8. Godden 9-2. 13 nm. 100-30 by Carrolls More, 5rt-hd, 1%, U Ffach-Heyes), Tota: £15-80; £4-80, £4-90, £2-70. DF. £87-40. CSP. £113-90. Treast. £525-79.

Heyesi, Tota: \$15.80; £4.80, £4.90, £2.70. DP. £37.40. CSP. £113.90. Tracest £525.79. Trace £201.50. 2.00: 1. \$0ANUNG (D R McCabe) 2-1; 2. Milles 5-1; 2. Our Shadee 20-1, 11. ran. 6-4 few Second Colours, 4, 1½, (P Burgoyne), Tota: £2.70; £1.10, £1.80, £3.50. DP. £8.30. CSP. £10.76. Tracest £1.00. 2. 30: 1. HATTMAFEH (S Sanders), 5-2; 2. Worktawhembles 9-4 few; 3. Supreme Star 10-1, 10 ran. ½, nk. (Mas 8 Sanders), Tota: £3.90; £1.50, £2.00, £2.20. DP. £3.10. CSP. £7.59. Tracest: £42.44. Hrb: £7.80. 3.00: 1. MELIORS (S Drowns) 9-2; 2. The lestified Boy 8-1; 3. Rock To The Top 10-1. 10 ran. 100-30 few Smarn Imp. 1, ½, (M Heston-Elis), Tota: £4.50; £1.30, £2.60, £2.70. DP: £18.10. CSP. £29.10. Tracest: £42.31. Trac: £110.20. 3.30: 1. DANCES WITH HOOVES (J Weswer) 13-8 fav; 2. Naichall 8-1; 3. Passage Creoping 9-4, 11 ran. 1, 1, 0) firench Devis. Rock: £2.50; £1.90, £2.90, £1.50. DP: £14.00. CSP. £15.107. Trac: £8.40. 4.00: 1. SEA DANZIS (D Herrson) 5-1: 2. Siar Releast 3-1 fav; 3. Lancestrire Lagend 20-1, 11 ran. hd. ½, J Bridgert, Tota: £6.20; £3.20, £1.50, £4.80. DP: £7.70. CSP: £18.39. Tricest: £26.00, 22. Tric: £50.40. New Year 1900 for £13.50. DP: £13.50. DP: £13.50. E1.50. Quadpot: £13.20. Piace &: £57.03. Piace S: £17.59. 11DD: OW

1.10:1. PERCY BRAINIWATE (K Hibbert)
8-1; 2. Piconillium 5-4 fav. 3. Mr Durry 3-1.
11 ren. 1½, 3. Miss P Wintile). Tote: 58. 70:
£1.50, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £5.00. CSF:
£1.60, 10: £1.80, NR: Noble Colours.
1.40: 1. FASTINI GOLD (M A Fizgardi)
4-1 /r lav. 2. Astral Invasion 14-1; 3. Cosnic Star 6-1. 10 ren. 4-1 /r lav. Little Hoofgen (Sth). 1½, nt. (M Usher). Tote: £4.00; £1.40, £4.30, £3.20. DF: £56.10. CSF:
£54.40. Thossit £311.34. Tho: £99.80. NR:
Premer Star.
2.10: 1. REPERIAL VINEAGE (N WARTEND) MOTORILI

2.10: 1 IMPERIAL VINTAGE (N WELTSON) 7-2; 2. Fortunes Course 5-1; 3. Dark Online; 16-1, 8 par. 13-8 lay God Speed You (6th). htt. htt. (Mss Y Witarns). Tolan £5.00; £1.70. £1.80, £2.20. DF; £7.70. CSF; £20.38. Toland; £7.00. 285 £226.52. Tho: £40.90. NR: Part Lin-



2.40: 1. NORTHERN SINGER (T Descombe) 16-1; 2. Bold Acre 14-1: 2. Lobeter Con-

240: 1. Northean Saveer (1 leasone): 16-1; 2. Bold Are 14-1: 3. Lobator Cotage 11-2: 10 ran. 7-2 fav Holy Wanderer (6th), 31/s, 5. (R Hodgest, Tota: £20.80; £2.70, £1.80, £2.40, DF: £48.00, CSF. £1.83.08, Treast: £1.271.05, Troc. £91.70. 3.10: 1. GUMMAKER (N Williamson): 5-1; 2. Brienfley House 25-1; 3. First Crack 10-1. 11 ran. 9-2 prisus Evezio Rufo, Rare Spread. 1½, 1½, 18 Llewellyn). Totac £4-30; £2-20. £3-90, £1-90. DF. £191.40. CSF: £105-98. 23:90, £1:90, DY: £1:91.40, CSP: £1:05-96. Those: £1:096.16. Thor £113.70 (£73.46 to Kempton 2.40 today). NFt Queen's Award. 3.40: 1. INCH £8IPEROR (T J Marphy) 11-2: 2. Jolly Bost 11-8 tor. 3. Acollan 65-1. 7 ram. 3, 20. (A Carroll). Toda: £8.50: £2.10. £1.30. DF: £9.80. CSF: £11.18.

£1.30. DF: £9.80. CSF: £11.18.
4.10: 1. MOUNTAIN STORM (7 Hegger)
4.1: 2. Shebsing 7-4 Sv; 3. Jun's Quest 6-1.
12 man. 5. 2. (N Henderson, Lambourn). Totas:
£7.40; £2.50, £1.40, £2.70. DF: £6.10. CSF.
£12.13. NR: Welsh Asset. Thio: £44.60.
Placepot: £435.20. Quadpot: £257.10.
Place 6: £303.44. Place 5: £239.45.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Chadleigh Lane (Southwell 1.50) NB: Nazzaro (Kelso 2.00)

1.20: 1. ZINGIBAR (Michael Bramman) 8-1:
2. Burlington Sem 9-2; 3. Fleur De Tei 9-2.
6 zin, 7-4 fav Nordic Brezes (uneested ndcr), 2/1, 16. () Bradley), Tota: £7.40;
£3.10, £1.90, DP. £18.00, CSP; £37.45,
1.50: 1. SAM ROCKETT (S Ryan) 16-1;
D'Nisem 4-6 fav; 3. Pasition 10-1. 12 ran,
9, 8, (P Mooney, Lewel, Tota: £18.60; £2.80,
£1.40, £1.60, DP. £11.80, CSP; £27.89, Tro;
£70.20, NP. Benlikorssym, (I) Trastrevere. £70.20. NR: Benkarosam, II Trastavere. 2.20: 1. WOODLANDS GENNIRE IC 2.20: 1. WOODLANDS (ERNINE IC Levelyn) 100-1; 2. Evengelica 11-4 ft fav. 3. Frozen Drop 9-1. 10 ras. 11-4 ft fav. 13. Frozen Drop 9-1. 10 ras. 11-4 ft fav. 14-6 ft fav. 15-6 ft fav. 15-6

NR: Merket Mayhem. 3.20: 1 OLLIVER DUCKETT (G Tomiey) 3.20: 1. GLIVER INCLEIN IN INTERP 14.1; 2. The Mins Captain 2-1; 3. Winnow 13-2; 8 ran. 6-4 isv Bridepark Rose (Sth). 1, 7. (C Popham). Tota: £15.50; £5.10, £1.70. DF: £16.40. CSF: £41.87, NR. Jusi

From. 3.50: 1. LITTLE SHEFFORD (I Lawrence) 20-1: 2. Storm 14-1; 3. Ath Cheannaithe 16-1. 13 ran. 13-3 few Ultimate Smoothe (5th, 2%, 8. IM Mustendis), Totar £42.50; £8.70, £2.90, £4.10, 07: £134.50. CSF: 28.10, 22.50, 24.10, br. 21.34.50 CSP: £245.69, Incast £4,149.40, Tno: £183.00; £103.12 in hempton 2.40 today). NP. Ro-

13.3.2 to 14.15 (HOUMF (J Ostome) 100-30; 4.20: 1.15 (HOUMF (J Ostome) 100-30; 2. Nine O Three 100-30; 3. Glowing Parth 7.1 7 rain. 3-1 fav Yubralse (4thl. 5, 7, U Neville, Newport). Tota: £3.50; £1.60, £3.80. DF: £22.50. CSF: £13.33. Placeport £823.20. Quadport £223.50. Place 6: £738.67, Place 5: £150.39.

SOUTHWELL

12.45 Roll Again 1.15 Pet Express 1.50 Chadleigh Lane 2.20 Soaked 2.50 Pleasure Trick 3.20 Mad Militant 3.55 CHINA CASTLE (nap) GOING: Standard. STALLS: Incide.

STALIS: treate.

ORAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Fibresard surface; left-hand steep, oval course.

Course is 3m SE of town and 5m W of Newark, Rolleston Junction adjours course. ADMISSION: Club \$12; Tanersalis \$5 (OAF members of course's Dismond Club \$4, accompanied under-1 is free). CAE PARE: Free.

BLINKREET FIRST TIME: Unspoken Prayer (2.20), Manabar (2.60) A S Jim (3.20).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN BATS: Anita's Contessa (2.50) was at Southwell on Priday; Chadleigh Lane (1.50) was at Southwell on Monday; China Cautle (3.65) was at Southwell on Monday; Golden Badeer (3.56) was at Wolverhampton on Wednesday, LONG DISTANCE BUNNERS: Boll Again (12.45) sent 211 miles by M Pine from Nicholistianne. Devos.

12.45 LEVY STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m GLASS H) £1,500 added 2m

6-15 SLDE ON (7) (0) (8P) Fours F11 11 Methani Bressum (5)

5 ARYSS (78) N LOWEDER 5 11 4 ______ Filter (7)

0 HOLKHAN BRY (99) L Wordingtom 5 11 4 ______ Filter (7)

(00) HARS (27) G Crarles Jones 6 11 4 ______ Mr A Charles-Jones

RED OASSIS H) Older 6 11 4 ______ Mr H Olleve (7)

RED CLASSAN 11 Ppc 7 11 4 ______ G Supple (7)

RED CLASSAN 11 Ppc 7 11 4 ______ G Supple (7)

RED CLASSAN 11 Ppc 7 11 4 ______ M Busin (7)

RED CLASSAN 11 Ppc 7 11 4 ______ M Busin (7)

RED CLASSAN 12 Filter (7) Holder (7) 11 4 ______ M Busin (7)

OF THE KHORNON (827) Mrs A Switzbark 7 11 4 _____ M Busin (7)

OF THE KHORNON (827) Mrs A Switzbark 7 11 4 _____ M Busin (7)

GET STAR (13A) C Marray 4 10 5 ______ M Switzbark (13A)

CRET STAR (13A) C Marray 4 10 5 ______ P Peers

SER BOSTON R Woodhouse S 10 5 ______ R Johnston — 12 declared —

1.15 SHARK HANDICAP ICLASS E) £4,100

1.50 HALIBUT APPRENTICE CLAIMING STAKES Stone Heats, 33-1 others (CLASS G) £3,000 added 1m

| COURSE | CARREN | C

- 13 declared -BETENC: 6-4 Chadleigh Lane, 4-1 Rambo Welber, 11-2 Sandanor Des-les, 7-1 Sweet Main, 10-1 Le Sport, 14-1 Chilliang Bang, 16-1 Ecceptic Dencer, Buddy's Friend, 20-1 Appeal Again, 25-1 others

2.20 OYSTER MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 7f 00040-5 SOMED (7) 0 Chapmen 49 0 _______ A Calleste 3 030040 TRIALY BAY (Re) T Barron 49 0 _______ Deem McKeoma 1 60 KIRLEPOPSIE (8) A Kulmotand 4 8 9 ______ Deem McKeoma 1 50804-0 UKSPONEN PRAYER (13) J Arnold 4 8 9 _____ S Senders 2 8

SETTING: 6-4 Society, 2 Our Robert, 7-2 Unapolitic Prayer, 9-2 Truly Bay,

2.50 WHALE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500

		added 7f
	020-202	AMESCIAE VENTURE (4) (CD) 11 Craption 7 10 0.5 Drowns 1
		10HSCHEP 80Y (14) (C) (D) (BP) M Ryan 89 11 .A Clark 6
		LEIGH CROFTER (7) (CO) P Cundel 8 9 10 IR Perform 11
		BOLD ARISTOCRAT (4) (C) R Holinatiesd 5 9 4 F Lynch (3)
		HANNAR (8) M Poisse 5 9 2
		DAWALE (7) (C) (D) O Hayen Jones 7 9 1 L Charmook 1
		ANDA'S CONTESSA (7) (C) (D) 8 Paling 5 9 0 (Sex) T Speake
		NAPOLEON STAR (220) S BONTIE 68 11.5 0 Williams 13
	200401-	MERCHAY'S MAZDA (20) (D) J Eyre 8 8 8. R Lappin 1
ì		PLEASURE FRUX (11) (20) Don E hose 6 86 (Sed_Rim Teller 6
		CHEEKPLE GROOM (7) (D) D Stew 6 7 13N Respecty
,		CRUCKE BOY (7) H Book 7 7 11 Branch (7) 8
		CREEN COLUMNLY (11) R Rower 6 7 10 F Morton 1 B
		KAJOSTAR (7) S Campon 7 7 10
		- 14 declared -

BETTERS: 7-2 Pleasure Trick, 9-2 Merray's Mercia, 6-1 Leigh Croffer, 7-1 Anita's Couteses, S-1 Awasone Yeotare, 10-1 Kingchip Boy, Bold Aris-tocat, 12-1 Cougle Boy, Mormbar, 20-1 Danalib, Cheerful Groom, Napoleon Star, 25-1 Green Golfgibly, 56-1 Kajastar

3.20 LOBSTER SELLING STAKES (CLASS G)

ш		2-3,000 autieu IIII 31
1	0	A S JAL (5) OD Net 5 9 2V Stattery 6
2		CALDER KING (JAQ (D) (BF) J Eyre 892R Lappin 11
3	003342	FORZUR (14) (C) J O'Neil 592 J Quinn
4	445233	MAD MILITARY (20) (CD) A Streeter B 9 2
5	0002-26	SOLDIER COVE (6) Margin Meade 7 9 2 D Sweetey (5)
6		SPENCER'S REVENUE (5) (C) (SP) N Trider 892_G Bardwell 7
7		DOUBLE VMTAGE (459) 11 Crapman 4 B 13 Ibox Wands (7)
8	435500-	STANKER WILLA CIES ICI K Wingows 58 11 A McCardy (7)
9	6-	HARLESTONE HEATH (113) M Dods 488
10	40500-0	LEBEDSEN (7) Mrs. P Sy 4 8 8
11	55600-4	SHANOORA (4) (C) Mrs N Macaulty 4 8 8 C Teague (3) 10

3.55	added 1m 4f
0044-11	CHINA CASTLE (4) (5) P Hastern 4 10 5 (Sec) S Drowns 1
013-111	GOLDEN HADEER (2) (C) (D) 14 Ren 6 9 10 (Seq. A Clark 9
05500-0	CALENDULA (14) 0 Morley 4 9 2
52405-4	PHILMEST (13) (CD) J Herberton 5 9 1
	SEA GOD (7) (C) M Chapman 68 12 6 Bardeell 4
0002-05	CAROL AGAIN (4) (CD) N Bycroft 5 8 7 J Branchill (7) 3
	QUALITAIR PRIDE (512) 1 Bottomicy 5 8 2
	NOTHING DOBYS (10) (00) (8F) W Musson 8 7 12_1 Quies 8
	MINETANK ISS & Thorrang & 7 10 L Charmock 7

SETTING: 11-8 Chies Castle, 5-2 Golden Haders, 13-2 Nothing Doing. 8-1 Sea God, 12-1 Philadel, 14-1 Calendaia, 16-1 Mostang, 20-1 Carol

KEMPTON

HYPERION 1.40 Captain Jack 3.10 Philip's Woody 2.10 Super Tactics 3.40 Sharpical 2.40 Mr Wild (nb) 3.40 Tim

GOING: Good to form.

Right-hand course. Practically flat. Run-in of 200yd.

Right-hand course. Practically flat. Run-in of 200yd.

Course is on A508 at Sanbury. (Boomg Day only: Bus link from Elehanand Underground station.) Rempton Park rathway station adoptes course. ADMISSION: Club.& Tattersalls 5 to (16 to 25-year-olds 58); Eliver Ring 55. Accompanied children under 10 free.

CAR PARK: Members 52: remainder, free.

SIS RACING

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: M Pipe - (2 winners from 50 runners at a rado of 20.3% giving a return to a 51 level stake of +512.13; N Henderson - 12 winners, 75 runners, 10.7%, 80.40; J Gifford - (1 winners, 87 runners, 12.6%, 80.77; R Almer - 8 winners, 27 runners, 29.0%, +527.91; Miss H Knight - 8 winners, 40 runners, 20.6%, 458.47; N Toriston-Davies - 8 winners, 22 runners, 15.1%, 524.40; P Hobbe - 6 winners, 50 runners, 12.6%, 458.75.

P Hobbe - 6 winners, 50 runners, 12.6%, \$2.75.

LEADING JOCKET'S 4 Oeborne - 27 winners, 111 rides, 24.7%, +\$2.1.10; B Dunwoody - 21 winners, 108 rides, 19.3%, \$35.27; A Magnice - 18 winners, 84 rides, 12.4%, \$5.00; INS rides, 19.3%, \$45.27; A Magnice - 18 winners, 84 rides, 12.4%, \$1.30; N Williamson - 13 winners, 61 rides, 12.4%, \$1.30; N Williamson - 13 winners, 61 rides, 17.4%, \$1.20; N Williamson - 13 winners, 61 rides, 17.4%, \$1.20; N Williamson - 13 winners, 61 rides, 17.4%, \$1.20; N Williamson - 13 winners, 61 rides, 17.4%, \$1.20; N Williamson - 13 winners, 61 rides, 17.4%, \$1.20; N Williamson - 13 winners, 18 rides, 17.4%, \$1.20; N Williamson - 13 winners, 19 w

1.40 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3m 110yds Penaity Value £2,780 D 2P CAPTAIN MCR (31) (8P) (Cive D Smin) M Pipe 7 11 11 ______ D Whiteh
2 20232 WARSTEAD (RES) (A1) (I H Oursley) I Jeniers 5 10 B. ______ NT Egan (5) 8
3 30\L31-P LODESTONE LAD (RES) (A1) (I H Oursley) I Jeniers 5 10 B. ______ X Attgaru (6) B
4 03FFG. CARBONAL GAVE (RES) (629) IR Amer R Amer 7 10 D _____ P Healey
5 P64-305 BLAZING MORACLE (30) (Mr. R G Henderson) Mr. R Henderson 5 10 D _____ D Setter
- 5 declared Maintain weight: 10c1. True handless weights: Lodestone Lad 9st 70, Cardinal Gayle 9st 4b, Blazing
Maintain weight: 10c1. True handless weights: Lodestone Lad 9st 70, Cardinal Gayle 9st 4b, Blazing

Marcie 93 20.

BETTING: 11-8 Captain Jack, 2-1 Weestend, 5-1 Lodostone Lad, 8-1 Cardinal Gayle, 12-1 Nazing Mirrote 1996: Py Guard 9 9 11 Martin Smith 25-1 IN M. Babbagei 10 ran

1996: Py Guard 9 9 11 Mann Smith 25-1 IN M Bathager 10 ron FORM GUIDE:

CAPTAIN JACK was a decent staying handicapper on the Flat as a four-year-old and will not get a better opportunity than this over humbles. Twice binthered in three attempts over timber. Captain Jack's best effort was without the headgaan, as he is today, when nan-rerup to kimangton at Winnardron 12m65. He has to put a disappointing run at Folkstone last onne behind him and hardly appeals as a sound bet, but if he is to show somerstain no as of-gare purchase price it has to be here. Wasnatead ran very well over Sandomin's stiff two miles last time out when third behind Aerion and Hay Dance, as he did when narrowly hold by Mazzirin outer born miles hare in October. If he gets the timp he did have to be a big danger at the weights, but he didn't do as well when a well-beaten third over two and a half miles at Plumpton and his neck second to Rosefralt at Warrack. (2m3h hasn't worked out, Lodestone Lad was finished after winning over fences at Folkentram eyon in isst season and was outled up and dismounted at Wordster on his return a year lare, it's difficult to have any confidence in him.

Selections CAPTAIN JACK

2.10 EASTER HERO HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added

ļ		2m Penany Value £4,463
1	2916-5P	SENOR EL BEDRUTTI (RIS) (55) (Gerand Nock) Mrs Susan Nock & 11 0
2	1.21141	SUPER DICTICS (RE) (28) (CD) (H V Perry) R Afrer 9 11 12
3	11/U-1F1	FINE HARVEST (35) (D) (Miss & Shirley-Priest) Spearing 11 11 3
4		BALLY PARSON (32) (G Hurstyn R Dicker 11 105N WELFARDS
5	1111-32F	ARMALA (61) (D) (Mis C Houston) J Gifford 11 10 3 Aspell (
6	31212P	SCOTTISH BANKS (1) (D) (BF) (Wilson J Kelly) P Webber 9 10 0 Ochor
7	411F-22	DEAR DO (43) (D) 62 / Edwards N Henderson 10 10 0
B	P141014	COUNT BARACHORS (USA) (29) (D) (Mrs E H Hearth) Mrs E Hearth 9 10 0
		B declared -

Minimum weight: 10st. True hangings weights: Dear Do Str 12th, Court Barachok Str Stb., BETTRICE: 9-4 Super Tactics, 4-1 Rne Hanvest, 5-1 Dear Do, 11-2 Armeta, 7-1 Senor & Betrust, 18-1 Bally Parson, 10-1 Scottish Barashi, 33-1 Count Barachois 1996: Time Won't Wat 7 11 9 J Retton 9-4 IR T Phillips) & ran

FORM GUIDE

At best, Sener El Betruttti pould easily burdass this field but in both outings this season he has been way below his smart form of list; year, when he won three good races (made at each time). With Fine Harvest in the field he is unlikely to be able to dominate. Fine Harvest has some back in fine form this season, and wan for the second time when making all to beat Bailty Partion by four lengths at Wanwick at the end of November, He did that desprise brees slipping and should confirm the form on 9th worse terms on this more suitable right-hand course, but SUPER TACTICS has gone firm strength to strength this season and may soft be alread of the handicapper. Super Tactics's three wins this season include lowering the course record for this two-mile here in October, and he bounced back after being outclassed behind Trying Again over two and a half miles here in November to deal with Mister Oddy in style at Newbury.

Selection: SUPER TACTICS FORM GUIDE

2.40 WALTON HURDLE (CLASS B) £9,000 added 470 2m

	•	Penarty Value £6,246	
1	11	FAR DAWN (USA) (36) (D) (Peter Wegend) Mrs A Perett 11 2	C Mand
2	1	DISALLOWED (DRE) (36) (Million in Mind Partnership (6)) Miss H knight 11	1JF TRUE
3	ō	BAILINACK (ZZ) (Mrs Lesley Graham) N Graham 10 10	N Williamso
•	3	BARANOV (RE) (36) (Mrs Susan Nash) O Murray Smith 10 10	
5	55	BRANDON MAGIC (35) (R P 8 Michaelson) Balding 10 10	G Brack
5		BREDON (The Four Willies Partnership) W Must 10 10	
7		BRILLIANT RED (Mrs M J George) P Hedger 10 10	
3	0	MEASURE ROLE (36) (M. J. Ferguson) J. Jenkins 10 10	
•		MER HACKER (But Mens) G Phomer 10 10	
10	UF	MR WILD (USA) (34) [BP) (A O Spercel R Abetruss 10 10	A P McCt
11	-	QUALITY (ERE) (D B O'CONNOT P Hotels 10 10	_R Dumeood
12		SCATHERERY (May Shelds) X Burle 10 10	A Larmac
11 12 13	8	SEATTLE ALLEY (USA) (63) (L & P Parpreship) P Webber 10 10	Osbora
14	3	SUBMER SPEL (49) (BF) (IV V & Mrs E S Robinsy N Henderson 10 10)	A Filasera
15		SAUCY DANCER (22) IG S Tucks J Tuck, 10 5	
4	_	THE STREET STORY I have brought by Tunner Drader 10 C	CHARACTE

- 16 declared -

by, 20-1 Brandon Magic, Brilliant Red, 25-1 Saattle Alley, Solowesi, 33-1 Bracon, 50-1 others 1996: Zabadi 4 10 10 A Magure 11-1 (D Nicholson) 11 tan FART DAWN, rated infenor to gate a low of these on the Rat, has already shown the big difference eight flights of hurdes can make and is unbester in two attempts over timber. Having besern 18 others in a nin-of-the-make sevent at Windsor, he defeated Pitzwilliam (bestern at Lucion yesterday) and Buranov in impressive style at Sandown. It will take some decent to lower his colours. Disablewed has taken to hurding and made a lot of the running to win going away at Cheftenham, Brandom Milegic was one of the 11 she left bolding in her wate and she looks a useful recruit with scope, but there's no question she faces a much stiffer task here. Summer spell was a decent sort on the fatt and carried a lot of confidence on his hurding when third behind White Sea and Shooting Light in what looked an above average event at Newbury in November. Her ill come on a lot for the experience and will with his stars. Mr Wild's chance is not so obvious from his figures, naving taited to complete in both his starts. He may well, however, have beaten previous winner Screnus at Lingfield lost morth # he hadn't fallen just as he had loned the wriner at the stoond lace.

3.10 HANWORTH HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £7,000 added 3m Penatty Value £5,006

FORM GUIDE

GREY SMOKE was a progressive young horse over fences last season, something he more than confirmed on his operang outing this term when running a fitter inchealloch irec 6tb) to half a length at Sandown. That only made his subsequent run at Chetterhism all the more mystifying and he reportedly came back distressed when a tailed-off last of four behalf Vorishine Gole. That defundely wasn't the seven-year-old's true form and he is worth another chance. Deaths Dove's two outings since resuming from injury have been a lot better than they appear on proper. He jumped the last in fourth place in the Heinessy Bold Cup and was in front four out believe being pulled up in Ascot's Betterware Cup. Last season he just instead that in the Mandarin at Newbury and he's only 2th higher here. Those two nuts may have him somewhere heal that form and he looks a big danger. Le Mellie spit Proud Sun and General Russy in a decent made at Chetarhism in Apoil and west having his first outing since then when tailed off at Wincanton in November. That run can be ignored but that's not to say he will be as straight as Philip's Woody.

Selection: GREY SMORE

3.40 ASHFORD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS B) £9,000 added 2m Penalty Value £6,376

FORM GUIDE

A sharpish course like Kempton with the ground inding on the fast side may not be the best test for smart Flot stayer Demyydan and SHARPICAL may have too mush foot for him. Useful emough on the Flat, Sharpical upsets St Leger winner Moonae at Humfidged on his humfling debut with the cheekest of wins. Always travelling well, he came through on the bit to lead on the runn and did the absolute minimum necessary to ensure work. This receives won by a decent horse last year and Sharpical could be enother smart recruit. Daraydan's efforts on the Flat include a second in the Chester Cop under a big weight and, having made a successful start over hurdles at Lecester, he bounced back after a poor run on soft ground at Chepstow with a wide-marign win at Cheltenham, where Carlitto Brigarnie was 17 lengths back in fourth and Shadiman another five lengths away fifth. Shadrwan may have needed the run and can do better, but Daraydan's tront-run-ning troucs are still going to make him difficult to pag back. Selection: SHARPICAL

4.10 ROYAL MAIL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 3m 110yds Penaity Value £3,615A P McCoy

- 7 declared -BETING: 9-4 Direct Dancer, 3-1 Tim, 4-1 Olympion, 11-2 Fortunes Course, 13-2 Cokeany Boy.

12-1 Little Gomeon, 25-1 Sorbiere 1996: Great Easeby 6 11 3 P UtoScath 7-1 (W Storey) 12 ran

1996: Grant Easeby 6 11 3 R McGraft 7-1 IN Storey 12 ran

Little Gummer runs only if overnight rish, while Fortunes Course was touched off in a blanket firish over tendes at Ludiow yesterday. She is a tough mare and would not be without a chance of furning out again. Title's knowledge of the course is all important. In between wirming here in knowniber and December, film failed by two and a half lengths to put back Cokentry Boy at Sandown 12 mi6ft. They reopodes on the same terms but this easier course may not suit Cokentry Boy as much and film looked well suited by the step up to this distance last pine. Diwall Demoer was having his first run in 21 months, and his first for Martin Pipe, when racing in a clear fead until collered at the final flight by wissal Sureet fred 15bb over two and a half miles at Leicester five weeks ago. Olympian has returned to form this season since being put up to three miles and his defeat of Ocean Hawk at Asox looks a great deal better after the winner werd on to take the Long Walk Hundle there. Olympian's subsequent run behind Elburg at Cheltenham, where he was left in their place at the last, was in a a more competitive race than this. Selection: Title

Dravid rescues Indian innings

India 233-3 v South Africa

An unbroken fourth-wicker stand of 133 hetween Rahul Dravid and Saurav Ganguly yesterday rescued India from a abjectly slow start to the third and final Test against South

Africa in Johannesburg. The pair took India from 100 for 3 in mid-afternoon to 233 for 3 at the close. Dravid was the more circumspect, reaching his 50 off 133 balls. By contrast, Ganguly hit 46 of his first 50 in houndaries.

India scored just 117 runs in the first two sessions and seemed to be settling for grinding out a draw after losing the first two Tests. The opening pair Nayan Mongia and Vikram Rathore had crawled to 25 from 22 overs against an off-target seam attack before the introduction of spin hrought the hreakthrough. Paul Adams had Rathore caught behind with his first ball. Mongia fell to Allan Donald after lunch at 46 for 2, while Sachin Tendulkar, the captain, raised the strike rate but was caught in the slips from Hansie Cronje's fourth delivery.

Stuart hat-trick as Australians salvage pride

Pakistan 181-9 Australia 182-7 Australia win by 3 wickets

The fast bowler Anthony Stuart took a hat-trick as Australia salvaged some pride with a thrilling three-wicket victory over Pakistan in their World Series limited overs match in Melbourne yeslerday. Stuart, playing in only his third one-day match for his country, dismissed Ijaz Ahmed, Mohammad Wasim and Moin Khan in successive balls.

Chasing Pakislan's total of 181 for 9 in 50 overs, left-hander Michael Bevan helped steer Australia to 182 for 7 with three balls to spare, ending a run of five straight defeats in the triangular competition. Bevan scored an unbeaten 79 from 142 balls to ensure that Stuart's figures of 5 for 26 from 10 overs were not wasted.

The New South Wales bowler became only the second Australian to take a hat-trick in a limited overs international.

But the victory came too late for Australia, who have failed to qualify for the final as hosts in their worst performance in oneday cricket at home for 17 years in terms of results. Pakistan and West Indies will face each other in the best-of-three final. Starting in Sydney tomorrow.
WORLD SERIES (Methourne): Palistan
181-9 (Incamen-ul-Hag 64, A Stuart 5 for
26), Australia 182-7 (M Bevan 79no), Australia win by 3 wkts.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football (7.30 unless stated) NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION

Burnley v Bury (7.45)

FA UMBRO TROPHY FIRST ROUND

Hastings v Saliebury

FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Divi-DR MARTENS LEAGUE Southern Division: Ha-FA UNIBRO TROPHY First round: Hastings v

Rugby Union
A Interdational: Ireland A v France A (2.30)
lat Domybrook): Scotland A v Wales A (2.15)
lat Coldenacre).

UNDER 21 INTERNATIONAL Ireland v Prance 112.01 (at Angelsea Road); Soutland v Wates 112.45) (al Goldenacre). CLUB MATCHES: Newport v Restmond 17.01; Kelso v Jed-Forest 17.15); Selark v Hawack (7.15); Boroughmur v Llaneli (7.30); Dundee HSFP v Pompridd 17.01; Glasgow Southam v Biggar (7.0); String Courry v Bridgenti (7.0); Watsonians v Crawshays Welsh XV (7.15).

MMING: British Grand Prix meet (Swansee).

TODAY'S NUMBER

1.9m

The height (6ft 2in) that male swimmers who want to make the Chinese Olympic team will have to attain before they are considered for a place. "Height is really an advantage in swimming," a team official

Fighting for fair play in the big freeze

s usual it seemed the only people who cared about the supporters were other supporters. We were standing in the car park at Highfield Road, it was 40 minutes before Coventry and Woking had been scheduled to start their FA Cup third round tie, and a Coventry fan was passing comment.

"It's disgusting, appalling. Those poor people, they've come all this way." She was talking about the several thousand Woking fans who had driven through freezing fog For three hours only to find Wednesday night's match ca": d 64f less than an hour before kick-off. Some supporters were already inside the ground. They were not happy, and who can hlame them?

Nor were they the only ones. On their way back, the 27 coaches and countless cars loaded with Woking fans might have passed a similar convoy of Wrexham supporters making their weary way back from West Ham. That match had been called off because of fog at 5.30pm, too late for supporters engaged on a gruelling 500-mile round-trip.

Bad management? Or bad luck due to freak weather conditions? The clubs and referees involved will suggest the latter, but they should know better. They were warned because the events of the previous night were, if anything, worse.

At 5.30pm on Tuesday Brentford v Manchester City, Luton v Bolton, Watford v Oxford and Gillingham v Derby were on. Brentford was called off then. Luton an hour later and Watford a few minutes before kick-off time. At Gillingham they kicked off only for the referec. Paul Alcock, to decide the pitch was no longer playable af-ter 66 minutes. Neither players, managers, spectators nor media agreed. A few players had slipped over in one corner but the pitch seemed tricky rather

than dangerous. In each case away supporters had made long and difficult journeys. "After what happened last night, you would have thought someone would have shown more sense," said Mike Bidmead. Woking's Ground and Safety officer on Wednesday. "Many of our fans have paid £15 each for their coach

Glenn Moore says fans should be compensated for fruitless journeys

decision to call the match off. As Clive Walker noted: "Our players are part-time, they've all taken time off work to be here. li's a lot of money for them

which they won't get back.
"We play on much worse pitches than that and were happy to play tonight. So were Coventry's players. It's the ref's decision, and he says players might be injured, but I can't see

Another Woking player said: "It's a joke. It's perfectly all right. It was embarrassing when he called it off."

Bidmead, a former Football League referee, thought the pitch playable. He added: "We are not going to win the FA Cup, money. The police bill is sion I have made in 2, years fifther there is the sion I have made in 2, years refereeing but you can't play on a pitch that is 75 per cent

Woking were particularly unhappy at Gerald Ashby's belated things, it all comes out of our

Yesterday Ashby was unrepentant. "In my view the correct decision was made, some people would say hetter late than never." Ashby, having been as-sured by the club there was no need for an early inspection, arrived at 5pm. He looked at the pitch, waited an hour for a weather report (which suggested an evening temperature of 1C), then went back out, "I had doubts so I used footwear on it which increased my doubts. 1 spoke to both managers and, whatever they were quoted saying afterwards, 1 got the impression both had doubts. One said: 'I'd rather you made the

decision than me.'

mance not the performer, so no refund.

Old Vic, London: If performance car-celled for whatever reason, a total re-fund, or (and they prefer this option) replacing the ticket purchased with one

replacing the netex purchases with one for a subsequent night. In the event of a show being abandoned because of power cut, flood or whatever, a total re-fund, because covered by insurance.

Stoll Moss Theatres (Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, Her Majesty's, Haymerket, The Palladium and seven others): Where a ticket is purchased to see a

show or play and a star's name appears above the title, and that star's under-

study takes over because of illness, then

for a ticket on a night when the star will be on stage. If a show is ebendoned before getting under way, full refund or exchange for another night; if show abandoned part way through then full refund or exchange:

REFUNDS: HOW THE POLICIES VARY Opera & concerts

Royal Opera House, Covernt Garden: If one-off r. exformance by a big star such as Pav. til is cancelled, there would be a to : refund, if a show has such FA policy: If a match is called off be-fore kick-off, spectators will be offered free admission to rearranged match. If called off after luck-off, then 50 per cent a big st.; the ROH puts a premium or the norre, ticket price. So, if star puls out, the 11 H refunds the difference beif spectator cannot get to rearranged game, then up to herhim to ask club for refund. FA official policy is that decision is up to the individual club. tween the premium and the normal price. If a show is abandoned in the price. It a snow is abandoned in the first act, then a partial refund is made. If no big star but lead singer's place taken (because of illness or whatever) by understudy then ROH assumes punters bought tockets for the perfor-Football League: Recommends that member clubs offer full refund if postponed before lock-off. Abandonment af-ter kick-off: 50 per cent reduction for

FA Carling Premiership: No official pol-icy but general guidelines are that once spectators are in the ground, regard-less of whether match has kicked off Royal Albert Half: Generally happy for total refund if a specific concert has to be cancelled, although if an alterna-tive date can be rearranged then tick-ets become valid for that.

Rugby Union

RFU official policy: No money will be refunded for matches at Twickenham or major RFU matches elsewhere. But if match can be staged at a later date, then the ticket is valid for admission

Cricket

English Cricket Board: For international matches (Jest and one-day) they have the Rain Check Scheme; Up to 10 overs before play abandoned for day, a full refund; up to 24 overs, 50 per cent re-fund; 25 overs or more, no refund. No official policy as regards countes (up to individual clubs).

Middlesex and MCC: No spectators let in to Lord's unless and until play is guaranteed, so no one has parced with any cash in the first place. If play abandoned at any time thereafter, no refund. playable. There was a large area in the middle that was dan-

Geoff Chapple, the Woking manager, said that Graham Poll had permitted Coventry's recent match with Sunderland on a surface which was "10 times worse". Three days later Poll is said to have told Graeme Sources that his players would have to play "at 90 per cent" during Southampton's FA Cup tie at Reading. "Pitch inspec-tions," admitted Ashby, "can be an area of inconsistency among

referees. Personally I was astonished, as I drove up through freezing fog, that there seemed no doub about the match. Regular pitch inspections were announced at Leicester, Coventry expressed no concern. This was despite the state of their pitch for several recent matches, which must have been borderline decisions

Coventry are one of a handful of Premiership clubs without undersoil heating. Unlike the others, they have not been recently promoted nor are they planning to move grounds. Un-dersoil heating costs between £200,000 and £300,000. In the last two years Coventry have spent £16.6m on players.

"We used to have it," said Graham Hover, Coventry's secretary, "but it caused a drainage problem and it was removed six ears ago. At the moment we use frost covers and we feel the pitch was playable. I suppose we will have to look at installing un-

dersoil heating again."
In an age of £15m transfers and £42,000 a week wages, it is ridiculous that some leading clubs are reduced to using mats. straw and suchlike to stage games. Undersoil heating ought to be compulsory in the Premiership, with promoted clubs given assistance from Sky Sports money to pay for it.

Another slice of that vast

bucket of cash ought to he siphoned off to provide compensation for supporters who have lost time and money travelling to matches which are postponed at short notice. Fans are paying out more and more money in admission and travelling costs, and their goodwill cannot be milked forever. It is about time the game gave



No laughing matter: A Woking fan sent to Coventry for nothing

Hoddle happy with Italy friendly date

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, yesterday maintained he had no problems about facing Italy in a friendly in France this summer in the middle of his side's two crucial World Cup qualifying matches against the

Hoddle was at the luxurious Hotel de Ville in the centre of Paris for the official launch of the four-nation Tournoi de France, which carries a prize of around £625,000 for the win-

He said he believed the June tournament involving France. England, Italy and Brazil would benefit England ahead of the 1998 World Cup.

"It will be a good experience for the players and for me to find out a bit more shout ourselves in a tournament," Hoddle said. "I've only heen in the job for six months and while qualifying for the World Cup is the important thing. I'm looking upon next summer as a dress rehearsal for 1998."

The fact that England will be playing Italy in the friendly in the middle of the two World Cup qualifiers next month and

in October has aroused concern.

"As far as we are concerned it isn't a prohlem." Hoddle said. "We have to play luly in the qualifiers but this will be totally different. When you're playing a World Cup game the

result is all important, the only

thing you can think about. "In a friendly, even in a tournament, it gives you the chance to experiment to look and see what you have, what options are

The Italian coach, Cesare satisfied about this." Maldini, displayed a similar lack of concern. Maldini. who takes charge of the national team for the first time against Northern Ireland in Sicily next Wednesday, knows that the Wembley game on 12 February will he far more important.

"For us, like England, qualification is the prime objective and we know how hig a game it will be at Wembley," he said. "We don't have to be told that England are a strong team. You only have to look at the likes of Shearer, Ferdinand and Beckham to see that."

TOURNOI DE FRANCE: 3.June France v Brazil (Lyon): 4 June Italy v England (Nantes): 7 June France v England (Nompolier); 3. June Brazil v Italy (Lyon); 10 June England v Brazil (Lens); 11. June France v Italy (Polis).

Vialli vexed by life on the Chelsea bench

fellow Italian Fahrizio Ravanelli in expressing frustration at life in the Premiership.

has struggled to win back his place in Chelsea's starting lineup after injury and illness, and declared on Italian television: period for me. Ruud Gullit has used me very little and 1 am not

Vialli added: "I think if the manager keeps the captain of the side that won the European Cup six months ago on the hench, it would mean his team are top of the league. But this is not the case at Chelsea. So it must mean either the manager is not doing an exceptional job or there is something wrong. 1

Gianluca Vialli has joined his and not prepared to bear this Vialli was first sidelined with

The former Juventus captain "It is not a particularly happy

feel there is something wrong. "I wait with patience. I continue to train and I just grit my teeth. I did not come here on holiday or to enjoy myself. 1 came here to play and become a legend in London with Chelsea. Staying on the bench is frustrating for me and 1 hope

things change in the future. "Certainly I am not happy situation for much longer."

a hamstring injury and then flu. In his absence the striking partnership of Mark Hughes and Gianfranco Zola has blossomed. Chelsea play Derby tomorrow, hoping to improve on seventh place in the table.

The Chelsea coach, Gwyn Williams, said: "When Gianluca is on form, he will return to the side" Earlier this week Vialli's former Juventus team-mate, Ravanelli, was reported to have expressed fears that his new club, Middlesbrough, would struggle to survive in the Premiership, though he later played down his comments.

Gianni Agnelli, the owner of Juventus, has ruled out a move for the Newcastle striker Alan Shearer. The England captain has been linked with the Italian club because they feel they need to strengthen their attack despite Wednesday night's 6-1 drubbing of Paris St-Germain in the first leg of the European Super Cup. Agnelli said: "He's out of reach because of his cost. We need some reinforcements, but

not that expensive." Shearer became the world's costliest player last year when Newcastle bought him from Blackburn

Matt Elliott's journey from a huilding site to the Premiership was completed yesterday when he joined Leicester City in a club record £1.6m deal. Leicester's previous record was £1.25m for Mark Draper. The 28-year-old Oxford United centre-half rejected moves to Southampton and Sheffield Wednesday to sign a threeand-a-half year deal.

"It's not so long ago that I was leaving school with no career ahead of me and doing bits and pieces on a building site." said Elliott, who will make his debut at home to Wimbledon tomorrow. Now I'm like a schoolboy,

I feel so excited. Notts County have named Sam Allardyce, formerly in charge of Blackpool, as their new manager. The post has been vacant since before Christmas. when the Meadow Lane club sacked their general manager, Colin Murphy, and the team manager, Sieve Thompson.

their trophy options

Hednesford assess

Non-League notebook RUPERT METCALF

It is ironic that Hednesford Town's only scheduled fixture in between Monday's FA Cup third-round success over York City and next weekend's glamorous fourth-round trip to Middleshrough is in the FA Umhro Trophy - a tournament in which, unlike the FA Cup. the Pitmen have a realistic chance of reaching Wembley.

In contrast to next weekend, when Hednesford will he heading for the Premiership's newest stadium, the Riverside, tomorrow they will be doing hattle at the oldest community used football ground in the world: the Drill Field, the home of North-

wich Victoria since 1875. Despite their FA Cup successes, which has seen them become the first side since Kettering in 1989 to progress from the first qualifying round to the fourth round, the Pitmen are probably the underdogs in tomorrow's first-round Trophy tie, for Northwich, who are having a fine season, are fourth in the GM Vauxhall Conference.

Hednesford are ninth, although they have games in hand on all the teams above them.

John Baldwin, the Hednesford manager, has some welcome selection problems for tomorrow's tie. He can call on his latest signing, the former Derby and Leicester striker Phil Gee, who is ineligible for the FA Cup, and the winger Tony Hemmings, who has completed a two-match suspension.

Although Hemmings is a former Northwich player, the Vies have probably seen enough of him. He was the "man of the match" when playing for Macclesfield against Northwich in last season's Trophy final, and scored a superty individual goal to complete Macclesfield's 3-1 win at Wembley.

Carwyn Williams, the striker who scored Northwich's goal in last year's final, will be helping Macclesheld launch their defence of the Trophy tomorrow. Sammy Mcllroy's summer signing from the Vics has recovered from an ankle injury and is likely to be in the starting line-up for the holders' daunting tic away to the Conference leaders, Kidderminster Harriers.

Tarango at

Tarango was banned for two Grand Slam events, later com-

to his claim, without naming the official who made the assurance. Anytime 1 mention a name 1 get into trouble," he added.

Rosset 6-4, 6-1, 6-1 yesterday.

Russia

The Russian League, which is due to open for business again in March for the 1997 season, has a problem - or, to be more accurate, two problems. Two clubs calling themselves CSKA Moscow are planning for the new season, and both are claiming to be the "real" CSKA.

The controversy centres on a power battle within the Army Central Sports Club, which in its prime established the Red Army's football team as one of the strongest sides in eastern Europe. Now, though, things are different.

Last season Alexander Tarkhanov coached CSKA to fifth place in Russia's Premier League. Earlier this month, though, Colonel Alexander Baranovsky, the chief of all CSKA sporting activities, sacked Tarkhanov and replaced him with the former Russian national coach. Pavel Sadyrin, who had been sacked by

Zenit St Petersburg last season. Tarkhanov, it seems, is not going to give up his job without a fight. He claims to have the backing of a Moscow businessman who owns 40 per cent of CSKA. Sadyrin, though, is supported by the army, which controls the other 60 per cent of the shares. Now both Tarkhanov and Sadyrin are training "rival" CSKA squads - and the League does not seem too keen to resolve the controversy.

We were not too surprised to see two applications from CSKA," Vitaly Krechetov, the league's general director, said. decchia, is not happy, though. This is



"They are at odds over who can legally represent the club and it is not for us to judge." Ultimately, he added, it could go

A groundsman at the Italian Third Division club, Viterbese, turned up at their stadium on Wednesday this week to find 11 wooden crosses, each bearing the name of a team player, planted in

the middle of the pitch. team, which has lost its last four matches, were to blame. The crosses were removed, and the players later ended their losing streak, heating Sicily's Juveterra-

nova 1-0 that afternoon, The team captain, Massimiliano Narthe sort of intimidation that cannot pass in silence," he said. "These so-called fans must he singled out and hanned. We played with death in our hearts today."

Sudan

Playing football in Africa is never an easy business. Sudan have pulled out of the African Nations' Cup, according to its football association, because of "aggression on Sudan's eastern frontier and a consequent general mobilisation" to counter invasions by rebel forces.

Sudan's withdrawal is a blow to Bruce Grobbelaar's Zimbabwe side, who won 3-0 in Khartoum last October in their opening qualifier for the finals in Burkina Faso next year. That result will now be expunged, leaving Ghana top of a group which also features Angola.

France

The Paris St-Germain squad travelled to the Indian Ocean isle of Réunion for their training camp during the French League's winter break with their Brazilian coach, Ricardo, insisting it was not Police claimed disgruntled fans of the a holiday. "You'll have to work and run until you vomit, if it's necessary," he said to his players. The result of his efforts? A 6-1 home defeat to Juventus in the first leg of the European Super Cup on Wednesday.

Rupert Metcalf

0 OF 0

From David Rice Sir. It was with great amuse-ment that I read Chris Belsom's

Cross-code

criticism

letter "Unfair on League players" (2 January). Of the seven players mentioned five were high-profile signings from Union and Jason Rohinson has come in for much criticism. His inclusion ahead of Jon

Callard in the European Cup quarter-final has been cited as a maior factor in Bath being knocked out. As for the tackling, Gary Connolly's display for Harlequins against Leicester was laughable by junior club standards let alone National First Division.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch

Evaluation of success

From Dr W R Silveira Sir. I would like to make two points about the recent hoo-ha over Kevin Kecgan's resignation. The first is that the national psyche continues to function on the basis of a refusal to submit even in the face of extreme odds. Acknowledgement of stress is seen as capitulation, weakness of character, humiliation of the and who is to say that he should

SPORTS LETTERS

worst kind. This macho view of life actually deters from a meaningful understanding of the reasons why Keegan may have resigned. While Howard Wilkinson

throws some much needed light on the life and times of the modern day manager, he is unable to comment on the personal attributes that shape the individual's perception of success, its finity and its meaning because these things are personal and relate to the background and upbringing of that particular individual. Perhaps Kevin Keegan, for

reasons that even he may be unaware of (because these things sometimes operate at a subconscious level), has decided he has satisfied the drive that motivated him to take up this awesome task in the first place.

My second point is that there appears to be something magical about a five-year cycle in which individuals, groups and even governments can set out on projects of ment with predefined aims and goals. I would suggest that Kevin Keegan lias completed his five-year stint

or should not have left at the point that he did. DR W R SILVEIRA

Sunk before start

From Peter Cusworth Sir: Regarding the idea of Robert Crowther, Witney, Oxon (2 January), of Newcastle ground sharing with Sunderland. may I suggest boat sharing for the Varsity boat race? P CUSWORTH

Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne Cheek by grow

From Rob Charles

Sir: Sandy Anderson may have failed in his bid to take over Nottingham Forest, but he wins my vote for Barefaced Cheek of the Week with his comment afterwards. "There are clearly some people who are looking to make money for themselves." R CHARLES

Grayshott, Surrey Letters marked "For publication" should contain telephone numbers. They should be sent tn Sparts Editor. The Independent, I Canada Square, London E14 5DL. They may be shortened for reasons of space.

Henman's style may disturb Chang

reports from Melbourne

Tim Henman has come a very long way in a very short time. But if he beats world No 2 Michael Chang under floodlights today, Britain will know it really has a player capable of taking the sport by storm.

Henman, now ranked 14th, is firmly the underdog in the third-round match at the Australian Open. Chang beat Pcte Sampras and Boris Becker only last week and was runner-up here last year.

Though only two years older at 24, Chang has a massive advantage in experience. He won the French Open when he was 17, reached the final of the US Open last September and the final here last year. What Henman has going for

him is supreme confidence at the moment and the knowledge that he hits the ball harder than Chang, especially on the serve, and has the sort of all-court game which most troubles his c pponent. The match will be given spe-

cial coverage by the BBC in an extra programme tonight. The third-round encounter will be shown on BBC2's regular Sport on Friday programme (1410-1555), hut will be replayed later on an International Tennis special (1800-1900) on the same channel. Eurosport will fea-ture the game live at 9.15am.

World No 1 Pete Sampras has given him a chance, explaining: It is going to be a good test for Henman. Chang is not an easy guy to play and Henman is going to have to work hard, but the way he has been playing he has got a shot." Henman, however, has been beaten here already. going out of the men's doubles at the first burdle partnering the Dutchman Jan Siemerink.

Sampras reached the third round of the singles after a scare. The world No 1 was a set and a break down to the Romanian Adrian Voinea, but got his act together to win 3-6. 6-2. 6-3, 6-2 in 109 minutes. He next plays Australia's Mark Woodforde, who has twice held match

points against him in the past. Jim Courier threw himself into the River Yarra after both his previous title successes here, but if this year's championship continues as it has started for him the 26-year-old is unlikely to have

the energy to do so again. His two matches so far have both been five-set affairs and Courier has had to come back from 2-1 down both times. He beat the Czech Republic's Slava Dosedel 4-6, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 and said: "As long as I win I don't care how long it takes." He now plays fellow American Jeff Tarango.

The women's second seed. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, speni only three minutes on court. She won the first game against Stephanie De Ville then the Belgian pulled out with an ankle injury. Martina Hingis, the 16year-old fourth seed and second favourite to Steffi Graf, beat American Lisa Raymond 6-4 6-2 and described her play in the

second set as "almost perfect". Fifth seed Anke Huber, last year's runner-up, hit back from a set down to beat Italian Francesca Lubiani in a match delayed for a day after Huber's mother was rushed from Flinders Park to hospital after collapsing. Results, Digest, page 27

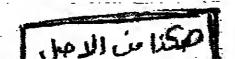
centre of new controversy

Jeff Tarango, the man who stormed off court at Wimbledon two years ago after calling an umpire "the most corrupt official in the game", yesterday claimed he had received a guarantee that the umpire at the centre of that controversy would never officiate at one of his matches again.

muted to one, and heavily fined for storming off the court. Before leaving he accused Bruno Rebeuh of being "the most corrupt official in the game". His wife shared the headlines for slapping the umpire in the face. I've been given that guarantee, yes," he said in reference

Yet a spokesman at the ATP's headquarters in Florida rejected the possibility of the French umpire being barred from any matches on the ATP tour, which only leaves the four Grand Slam events, run by the ITF, who were unavailable for comment.

Tarango meets the former champion Jim Courier in the Australian Open third round after heating Switzerland's Marc



into the Irish psyche. This, though,

Or maybe he does? Hence, perhaps, his ambiguous title of coaching ad-

visor and a short-term contract until

the conclusion of the Five Nations.

of the damsel in distress? On Mon-

day, Ashton assumed control of an un-

days before their championship open-er against France, whom Ireland

What is more, like his predecessors,

he assumes responsibility without full

power, being one of five selectors along-

side a "hands on" manager in an out-

moded, unwieldy management system.

All in all, Ashton might he better

have oot beateo since 1983.

So then, what exactly is the state

There is a feeling among Irish rug-

could be trickier.

Henman's style may disturb Chang

Tennis DERRICK WHYTE reports from Melbourne

Tim Henman has come a ten long way in a very short time. But if he beats world No. Michael Chang under flood lights today. Britain will know

it really has a player capable of taking the sport by storm Henman, now ranked 14th is firmly the underdog in the third-round match at the Autrainin Open. Chang heat Pele Sampras and Boris Becker onk last week and was nunner-un here kest year.

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his opponent Fie match with a groupe cuit coverage by in BBr ma extra programme tonight. The third-round encountries will be shown in BBC 2 - regular year on friday morramme (14)4 1888 p. Post call by raphyedlap

er in um International Tenne STORES AND A THE HERE anantice for spire all tre-Ture the paint to a 115 m. William Thirty to 115 m. S. or proposite. countries and a straining Et in grand in a contraction of the state of West of the second of the second seco

n garantina. Tanàna 15 K 4,515

placements' beach for Scotland's tough international with the touring Australians. It was oot the first time he had been overlooked, oor the second, hut this demotioo was wholly The state of the s unexpected and, therefore, even harder than usual to bear. "It was a hitter disappointment," Hastings said this week. "Not that I waso't in pretty ex-alted company. The Wallabies left out David Campese for that match, so he was sitting alongside me, and not long afterwards, England dropped Je-The William of the remy Guscott. But I knew that

> gether for a while, so I was fairly flat about it all. That feeling tends oot to last too long, though. I weot back to my hread and hutter cluh rugby with Watsonians, determined lo work my way hack into cootentioo and fortunately, I was given my chance against Italy last month. That went quite well for me, thankfully."

the selectors would be looking to keep the new midfield to-

Responding to the clarico culls from a rugby nation at arguably its served talking to one of his predecessors as opposed to Charlton. One of them, Ciaran Fitzgerald, was clearlowest ebb, the English ly speaking from hitter experience knight in shining arwhoo commenting on the manner in which the IRFU made Murray Kidd mour rides in to the rescue. Shades of Jack Charltoo and all sole scapegoat for this season's home that, whom Brian Ashton has revealed defeats to Western Samoa, Australia he would like to counsel for insights

and Italy last week. "I think it was handled very poorby the IRFU and I also felt that he idd came out the wroog end of it by folk that Ashtoo may not quite re-alise what he is letting himself in for. in that he was part of a committee. There was a manager there who ran the team, there was a selection committee who selected the team. Sure, he was responsible for tactics and the preparation of the side but to single out one guy and say you're gone and you're responsible for everything, and everybody else is exonerated, is der-achieving ever-chaoging Irish team low oo morale and direction five wrong. It just doesn't stack up."

It is this responsibility without power which has made Australians Boh Dwyer and John Connolly shy away from IRFU overtures, Dwycr describing the system as "too fragmented". Even Irish coaches such as Willie Andersoo and John O'Driscoll probably would not touch the job in its existing parameters with a prover-



Ireland have signed an English Aside, which should do wonders for coach, Brian Ashton (left), for a Five Nations campaign which begins tomorrow at home to France. David Hughes looks at the task facing him

صكذا من الاعل

"It's perfectly reasonable for them does this send out to the likes of Davy Haslett [the former Irish schools and under-21 coach now coaching the to give the manager overall respon-sibility and I have no problem with that. But I couldn't be the coach I A side and other guys supposedly would want to be uoder those circoming through the system? cumstances." O'Driscoll says. Meantime, as well as hrazenly lct-

Ashton given responsibility without power

Significantly, the balance shifted ting Kidd be the fall guy, the remaining from the coach to the manager after frish selectors have axed a third of the the pre-1991 World Cup dispute be-tween players and the Union. After the team beaten by Italy. While still inching closer to Ireland's best XV, the World Cup, Noel Murphy inherited Ken Reid's position as manager and feeting persists that the are not quite there yet, though in time-honoured assumed more responsibility and pow-er - which Pat Whelan, the manager tradition they probably will be by the third or fourth game. Whelan admits Anthony Foley is

and chairman of selectors, retained. Other Irish coaches might not have been so reluctant, had they been unlucky to be omitted in a hack-row revammed to accommodate Dennis McBride, whose height (or lack of it) asked. But, as was the case when Kidd is likely to be exposed by a French linewas appointed 15 months ago and last out which traditionally utilises the tail week, they weren't. As one of this alienated rump, a former provincial better than anybody. Meantime, Focoach, puts it: "What kind of message ley has been switched to No o oo the his state of mind.

By recalling the defensively solid Niall Hogan and Eric Elwood at halfback, it is clear that the Irish intend to bauen down the hatches. This, despite Whelan's tetchy assertioo prior to the Italian game that Elwood had to make up some ground from his standing as a remote third choice - "an awful statement to make," ac-

cording to Fitzgerald.

Whelan and Co might have gone further too. While Jonathan Bell has been retained more on potential than form, and Maurice Field has been recalled yet again, by common consent the New Zealander Kurt Mc-Quilkan is the best inside centre around and is a team-mate of Elwood's at Lansdowne. Aside from being a proven tackler, McQuilkan is, as Fitzgerald says, "one guy who will penetrate and you can work a back row off." Given Ireland have not created one opening in three games, that would clearly assist Ashton's stated

back to basics opening gambit. "Initially, what I have to do is simplify the Irish game," the new man said on Monday. "I'm a great believer in the game oot being complicated. It's

easier for the players to understand and it's easier for the players to put into operatioo. I also feel the need for the side to get back the Irish passion."

Giveo the time limitations, he does not have much option. "Bring a guy in a week before the Five Nations' kick off, what can he do?" Fitzgerald asks rhetorically, "I would say nil." Invariably though, Ireland will improve and they are capable of giving a traditional backs-to-the wall performance against the mighty French come Saturday. They probably would have anyway

Acknowledging their relatively timid rucking against Italy, and allied to the changes at half-back, something of the old Lansdowne Road fire and brimstone can be anticipated in what is likely to be a rough game.

Regardless of the outcome, Ashion will enjoy the customary honeymoon period, but, as Fitzgerald says: "By the time he gets to know the team, it's going to he the end of the season."

"So I'm just hoping that maybe they're just using this as a stepping stone to a final package. Maybe he Ashtool wants control of the final selection, which I think would be a good move on his part.

Packer to televise **Super** League

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

The reunification of a game ripped apart in Australia by the rivalry hetween media moguls is suddenly closer with the oews that Kerry Packer's TV network is to show Super League games. The Packers and Channel Nine have been the Australian Rugby League's staunchest allies in their hattle against Rupert Murdoch and Super League. But Kerry's son, Jamie, has announced that Nine will show Super League as well as

ARL matches this season. "The Nice Network teleasting both ARL and Super League will increase the prospect of a unified rugby eague competition, which we believe to be in the best interests of the public, viewers and all parties," he said.

Unsurprisingly, Murdoch de-clared himself delighted with the new turn of events. "I applaud the successful outcome of negoulations and t am pleased to resume cordial commercial re-lations with Nine," he said.

In Britain, the Rugby League's chief executive and chairman of Super League's international hoard, Maurice Lindsay, also celebrated. "It could eveo be the first step tovards a single game in Australia, which, of course, would be to everyooc's advantage," he said.

But the ARL's chairman; Keo Arthurson, admitted that he was stunned by his old allies striking a deal with his arch-rivals. "I would be telling a lie if I said I didn't feel deeply wouoded and bitterly disappointed," he said. "It's not really a great way to start the year, is it? Sometimes you really wonder what it's all about."

The Great Britain captain. Andy Farrell, is struggling to be fit for Super League's first international event of the season. the World Nines in Townsville in two weeks' time. Farrell has a niggling thigh injury and a decision will be made on his fitness over the next few days.

St Helens' captain, Bobbie Goulding, says that he has asked for a transfer, hlaming 'hroken promises'' for his wish to get away. The cluh insists that it does oot want him to go.

Rodman in attack on cameraman

Basketball

The Chicago Bulls' Deonis Rodman is in trouble again after apparently kicking a cameraman in the groin.

The incident happened when Rodman tumbled into a row of photographers during the Chicago Bulls 112-102 away victory against the Minnesota Tim-berwolves oo Wednesday night.

The photographer, Eugene Amos, was carried from the court on a stretcher. Rodman claims he hit Amos in the thigh: "I said, What's wrong with you? I'm sorry I hit you.' All of a suddeo be passed out. It's one thing to get nurt, but don't pretend you're more seriously hurt than you are."

Rodman, who head-butted a referee and was suspended for two games last month, said he has been the subject of five lawsuits relating to courtside incidents. "I think I'll get some Photograph: Empics up to Minoesota, he added.

Hastings still hungry after all these years

may soon be eli-Chris Hewett talks to Scotland's most gible for rugby's version of a pencapped player who siooer's bus pass. faces Wales at but at 32 his enthusiasm for a hard trade remains in-Murrayfield tomorrow fectious. Now in his 12th season oo the international stage, he As a result, Hastings will face Wales for the 11th time still responds emotionally to the nervous clatter of studs in the

when the Five Nations' Chaminner sanctum of the dressingpionship slips into gear at Mur-rayfield tomorrow afternoon, room and cherishes the cruel thud of shoulder on rib-cage as he executes one of his trade-'It's always wonderful to be inmark tackles. volved in this tournament; so There is another sound he much changes season on season hut, equally, so much stays the has grown to treasure down the same. The hype and expectation never diminish, no matter how years - the sound of critics munching their way through large platefuls of their own successful or otherwise the words. Hastings. Scotland's most-capped player with 62. has proved so many people

wrong on so many occasions

that a lesser sportsman might

long ago have succumbed to an

It is almost as if the double

Lion from Edinburgh relishes

life's frequent setbacks, secure

in the knowledge that those of utue faith will find the signpos

pointing to the gardeo path too

tempting to ignore. But the suspicion is unfounded: Hast-

ings is so passionate about his

rugby that the merest hint of re-

himself relegated to the re-

Back in November, he found

jection hurts him deeply.

unhearable smugness.

'It's always wonderful to be involved in this tournament. The hype and expectation never diminish

teams have been in the warmup games."
The Welsh have not caused

Hastings too many problems in the past – he has finished on the winning side against them seven times in 10 attempts - but the hrokeo cheekbone be suffered during the victory at Murrayfield a decade ago brings hack painful memories. (It was, however, far from the worst of Hastings' injuries: in 1993, he caught the sharp end of Josh Kronfeld's knee during the Ota-go-Lions match in Duoedin and surgeons worked for almost

five hours to rehuild his face). For all his successes against the Red Dragons, Hastings has never managed to score against them - at least, not in the traditional fashion of grouoding the ball over their line. But players of Hastings' unforgiving stamp chalk up points in all sorts of odd directions and if Scott Gihbs or Allan Bateman, his direct opposeots, eods up spreadeagled across the beautifully manicured Edinhurgh turf at some point during to-

(forward) Morecambe to Wolung (£30,000).

fessional satisfaction will be evideot on the face of a certain Scottish centre.

Talking of professiooalism, Hastings bas adapted to the pressures of full-time rugby with surprising ease. A family and career-minded man, it was oot so many months ago that be pronouoced himself too long in the tooth to start speoding morniogs in the gym rather than the office. The change of mind has been abrupt and complete. Enthusiasm goes hand in

glove with the Hastings name - I think people will credit both myself and my brother Gavin with that much - but in the professional age, enthusiasm is simply not enough. If you want to play at the top level - and I still want to very much indeed - you have to be prepared to do the necessary.

My own rugby situation has improved out of all recognition

under the full-time regime. I am no longer under pressure to get back to the office after training, sort whatever oeeds sorting inen scrambie across the city for another sessioo somewhere else. I now have the time to concentrate on the disciplines of the game and as a result, I believe professiooalism will leogthen my rugby career rather than shorten it."

Having embraced the forces of change with such zeal, Hastings oow wants to see the power brokers of the European game react similarly. He be-lieves the time-hoooured Five Nations format has outgrown its usefulness and is in urgent need of a radical rethink if it is to retaio its hold oo the sporting imaginatioo.

The Five Nations is unique, but that does oot mean it can survive the move to professionalism without a degree of repackaging. I think on halance that Italy should be brought into the competition to provide new blood and I also believe that the tournament would benefit from a shorter timescale.

"Teo weeks is too long. The matches should be played weekly to keep the interest levels high. The quicker all the European nations get together and hammer out a common fixture approach capable of unclutteriog the oorthern hemisphere season once and for morrow's frenzy, a hint of pro- all, the better."



SPORTING DIGEST

SECTION
GRAND TOURNAMENT (Tolgra) Fifth day of 15:
Studishins (won 3, lost 2) for Chyotakas (kryot)
(1-4); Yamato (1-4) fit Notobappu (2-3); Dasth
(4-1) for Masugasan (3-2); Tochazama (4-1) for Notobapu (2-3); Rebo
(2-3); Notobapu (2-3); Aopyama (2-3) for Notobapu (2-3); Notobapu (2-3); Aopyama (2-3) for Notobapu (2-3); Notobapu (3-2) for Notobapu (2-3); Notobapu (3-2) for Notobapu (2-3); Notobapu (3-2); Tochanoshima (1-4); Tamatasuga (1-4) fit Pelapintus (3-2); Tochanoshima (2-3) for Notobapu (2-3); Notobapu (2-3); Notobapu (2-3); Notobapu (2-3); Notobapu (2-3); Musashiman (3-2); Musashiman (3-2) for Notobapu (3-2); Musashiman (1-4); Masunohama (3-2); Notobapu (1-4); Musashiman (1-4); Musashiman (1-4); Musashiman (3-2); Musashiman (1-4); Musashiman (3-2); Musashiman (3-2); Musashiman (3-2); Musashiman (3-2); Musashiman (2-3); M

Tennis

syn Lotturn (Fr) 6-0 1-6 8-4; C RUBIN (US) bt S Testad (Fr) 6-2 6-1.

Women's doubles, first round: L NELAND (Lad and H SURDVA (C: Rep) bt E Hahami (US) and S Ptitowski (Fr) 6-1 6-3; A Elmood (Aus) and N Pratt (Aus) bt L Centona (C: Rep) and O Neppowers (Sough 6-1 6-3; A Frezer (US) and K Po (US) bt A Centson (Sough 6-1 6-3; A Frezer (US) and K Po (US) bt A Centson (She) and K Studentewa (Stocato 6-2 6-2; G FERNANDEZ (US) and A SANCHEZ VICARD (Sp) bt A Centson (Sa) and M PARTE (Sp) and C Parallal (Arg) bt V Martnerk (Ger) and C Schneder (Ger) 6-3 6-3; C Lawlenner (Ger) 6-1 6-3; A Haber (Ger) and C Rittler (Ger) bt C Schneder (Ger) 6-3; C Lawlenner (Ger) 6-1 6-3; A Haber (Ger) and C Rittler (Ger) bt C Schneder (Ger) 6-3; C Lawlenner (Ger) 6-1 6-3; A Haber (Ger) and C Schneder (Ger) and P Schneder (Ger) and C Schneder (Ger) and P Schneder (Su) Scheder (Ger) and C Schneder (Ger) and P Schneder (Su) to the Wendel-Wittinger and C Medicana (Ger) and C Morana (US) bt K Schneder (But) and Schede (Aus) bt M Wendel-Wittinger and C Medicana (Ger) and C Morana (US) bt K General (But) and G Schede (Aus) bt M Wendel-Wittinger and C Medicana (But) and C Morana (US) bt M Wendel-Wittinger (Ger) (Ger)

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المعادلة ال المعادلة ا فنظنو للدائر

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American football American-born Alton Byrd, one of the biggest names in British basketball, has been appointed general manager of the London Monarchs of the World League of American Courts. A CONTRACT OF THE CONTRACT OF of American Football.

Michael Johnson and Canadian Donovan Balley will run for the right to the fastest man title in a special 150 me-

Badminton COMMINITY CAT TO A STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF TH

Raskethall MRA: Charlotte 116 New Jersey 104: Golden State 128 Phandspha 111: Orlando 78 Dallas SE; Chica-go 112 Minnesoga 102: New York 94 San Antono 71; Sessue 122 Tomoto 78, Detros 103 Vancu-vir 79; Istilana 108 Los Angeles Oppens 93.

CIS INSURANCE WELSH INDOOR MASTERS (Limits) Quarter-finale: J Price (Wal) bt | Schubeck (Aus) 7-4 1-7 7-6.

Cricket

Mark Feltham, the Middlesex Bil-nounder, has retired after persistent back problems. He started with Surrey in 1983 before moving to Middlesex 10 years later, scoring 3,186 first-class runs and taking 200 widets in his carret. and taking 388 wickets in his career.

(forward) Morecambe to Woking (£30,000), PORTUBAL SQUAD (Friendly v Prance, Briggs, Wednasday 22 January): Goellusperer Baia (Barrelona, Spani, Correla (Braga). Defenders: Santos (Porto), Conceleso (Porto), Cruz (Sporting), Coute (Borzelona, Spani, Icraelona), Caputo (Borzelona, Spani, Icraelona), Caputo (Borzelona, Spani, Icraelona), Caputo (Borzelona, Spani, Icraelona), Baylo, Secretario (Real Modrid, Spani), Jorga Costa (Porto), Midfelderians (Borrelona), Spani, Jorga Costa (Porto), Midfelderians (Borrelona), Disvros (Porto), Rei Costa (Contro), Cadetta (Cotto, Gasgow, Scorland), Otherian (Portin, Portific) (Mest Ham Inhed, England), Caputolia (Gumarases), Sa Pinto (Sporting), Cadetta (Cotto, Gasgow, Scorland), Otherian (Portin, Portific) (Mest Ham Inhed, England), Caputolia (Gumarases), Sa Pinto (Sporting), Cadetta (Gumarases), Sa Pinto (Sporting), Caputolia (Gumarases), Sa Pinto (Gumarases), Sa Pinto (Gumarases), Caputolia (Gumarases), Cap

GOLF
BOB HOPE-CHRYSLER CLASSIC (Colifornia)
Leading first-round accores (players ILS unless sorbed; 63 L Farker, 64 S Jones; M Calcaneccha, 86 JD Blaker; P Coydor, Dah, 7 Tokes, 66 J Perrent, 15we); R Cochran; F Furl, 1 Coche, 50 Gurny; L Marciacce; J Farker, 67 J Celegher; S Borol, B McCalcister; F Coches; P Toursureng Nu., P Jacobsen; R Darmon; S Lyle (CB).
SOUTH AFRICAN MASTERS (Port Edward)
Leading first-round scores (SA unless stated); 67 A de Sale (Bh. 71 M Alchuny (Zmr.; B Pappac, M Board ILS); B Fouche; V Philips (GB).
72 N Homan; B CH, (US); M Gornar; G Lavenson; J Hawkers; S Waternar; M Witsher; W Westner; S Pappas; P Jones, 73 G Petrason (US); O Pappas; O Terblanche; R Goosen; J Kingston; I Hatching; W Bradley, 74 J Micheny (Rep Ir); H Beocch.

90 LDWIN PRO-AM (Tokago) Leading foorthround sepress 279 C Furly 65 G9 74 68. 280
A Shebome 66 70 72 72, 255 W Longinum 73 72 71 69; E I Stand 69 74 69 73, 267 R Wenchesser 76 76 67 68. 288 P Way 77 68 TS 70; M Poton 12 72 71 74; S Bottominy 73 75 71 69. 289 R Lee 72 71 71 75, 290 R Bossi 75 69 73 73, 292 0 Jones 75 75 71, 71, 283 D Loyd 74 74 74 71, 294 P Campil 72 72 75 75.

Hockey R H (Paddy) Selman, one of hockey's legendary umpires, has died in hospital in Worthing in his eighties. Selman lost an arm in an accident before taking up umpiring which led to him officiating in the first World Cup in Barcelona in 1971 and the 1972

NGE PROBLINGY
NNE. Problemgh 3 Hardord C; Buffolo 2 NY Islanders
1 Organs 5 Westington 1; Los Angeles 3 Toronto 2; Colorado 4 Tampe Bay 2; St Louis 4 Phoenic
1; Calgary 2 Anahem 1: Edinomom 4 Floredge 0.
SUPPER BAGLIE: Ay Scottlish Eagles S Manchoster
Storm 2; Nevicastle Coloras 6 Basingstoke Bison
4; Sherfield Stanlers 6 Notongham Parithers 3. Rugby Union Swansea have scrapped their plans to

Mon - Fri Sam - Tom Sat Spm - Sam Oxising SM Divertisate reports to ensure dustry quotem in Carvoll



Ferguson will step down in three years' time

Football

GUY HODGSON

Some managers succumb under the pressure and go to Florida, others lie awake at night worrying when the chairman's vote of confidence will come. Alex Ferguson has the luxury of an-

his contract runs out in three gestion that winning the Euroyears' time. His one ambition in the meantime is to emulate his most illustrious predecessor, Sir Matt Busby, and win the European Cup. "I can see the finishing line." Ferguson, who was appointed in November 1986. said. "When this contract runs

pean Cup beforehand will hring forward that retirement date.

What we achieve this season will have no bearing on the issne," he said. "My position at this club won't he changing before the end of my current con-

manager yesterday revealed he continuing as manager heyond when I signed this contract and will give up the position when that." He also quelled any sug- I will definitely see it through."

I don't. Every single day is important and that is how I will be stoped three England the Premiership, that situation he stoped playing. The announcement will in-

evitably cause a three-year stampede of speculation as to who will succeed Ferguson. whose record at United includes two Doubles, three championships, three FA Cup wins and the European Cup-Winners' Cup. He has also created a youth set-up that is the ers' choice 12 months ago but,

internationals in Garv and Phil Neville and David Beckham.

Ferguson's nominated heir is his assistant, Brian Kidd, although he is said to be reluctant to step into the media spotlight that goes with the joh. Bryan Robson, a former captain. would have been the supporthas changed.

A gap of three years allows senior players now to cut their teeth in management to be ready for the year 2000. Another erstwhile captain, Steve Bruce, comes into that category while a maverick candidate might by Eric Cantona, who is 31 in May and who has suggested he

Ferguson, meanwhile, is unlikely to allow the imminence of his retirement to diminish a hunger to succeed that shows no sign of being sated by honours. "I have completed 10 years at Old Trafford," he said, "and I am as amhitious now as the day I arrived. You never become indifferent to success, or at least

view this job until the time comes to step down.

"I have had it in my mind for some time that I would stand aside when I reached 58. But you never know for certain what circumstances will prevail three years down the line. Whatever happens in the future, I intend to stay active."

Lloyd puts

his foot in

it again

The England coach, David Lloyd, will not have endeared

himself to Zimhabweans yesterday when he spoke about his team preferring "the food, climate and people of New Lloyd put his foot in it fol-

lowing England's emphatic innings victory over a New Zealand Select side, which went

some way to help his team for-

get the first stage of their win-ter tour, which included a 3-0

one-day international series de-

"We're very pleased to kick off the New Zealand leg with a win as that breeds content-

ment," Lloyd said, "The obser-

vation we are more comfortable

in New Zealand is valid. The

food, climate and people are all

Lloyd's assessment of why his

side is happier in New Zealand was brutally frank - but it is a true reflection of the new pos-

itive state of mind within the England camp. Mike Atherton and Graham Thorpe may still

be struggling for runs, as in Zim-balwe. Andy Caddick may still

be failing to make any impact and Jack Russell is still surplus

to England's Test plans, but otherwise everyone is happier.
Phil Tufnell took 5 for

against the Select side and ... Lloyd said: Tuffers bowled

very well in what I thought was a very professional bowling per-formance. Chris Silverwood

claimed 3 for 29 to put himself

in contention for the first Test

against New Zealand in Auck-

land next Friday. "It's interesting to hear the opposing

haismen confirming he bowls a

NEW ZEALAND (First Test v England

heavy ball," Lloyd said.

feat in Zimhabwe.

more familiar."

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MOIM

Transfer rejig to hike clubs' wage bills

ALAN NIXON

The English game's transfer system is set to be overhauled this summer, with all out-of-contract players over the age of 24 allowed to change clubs without a transfer fee.

The change would be certain to have far-reaching effects. Clubs will be more anxious than ever to put their better in turn could lead to inflation in players' wages, while transfer fees paid to smaller clubs

could shrink substantially. News of the imminent change has already started to affect the transfer market. Most hig clubs have put their best men on long-term contracts, but

Brian Clough, at 61, says he has finally responded to

pleas from family and friends to stop drinking.

"That's perfectly true, and rve cut it out totally," he

said. But in a two-part

interview for Sky TV, last

night and tonight, Clough denied he ever had a drink

problem. "It's celebratory."

he said. "You drink because

somebody says: There's a

glass of champagne, it'll go

many of those with players which gave out-of-contract play-whose deals run out this sum-mer are considering selling them now, rather than see them without a transfer fee. In the wake of the ruling, Uefa, leave without compensation at

the end of the season. The players, meanwhile, are likely to be tempted to wait until the summer. Chelsea's Mark Stein, for example, currently on loan at Stoke and valued at £1m, has only to wait until the end of June and can then move for free.

The proposed change is outlined in a working paper produced by Graham Kelly, the Football Association's chief executive, and distributed in the last few days to representative

bodies within the game. The move is a direct consequence of last year's Bosman rul-ing by the European Court,

'I've given up drinking'

the European game's governing body, was put under pressure in legal quarters to scrap the system of transfer fees in its entirety. However, it has been felt within the game that a transfer system had to be kept in order to give smaller clubs the incentive to develop young players.

Under present rules in Britain, a player at the end of his contract has two choices if he wants to move. If he goes abroad, he is free to negotiate his move and his former chih is not entitled to a fee. If he stays in Britain he can negotiate a move, but the recruiting club either has to agree a fee with the selling club or the fee is decid-

ed by a transfer tribunal, With the new proposals, an out-of-contract player of any age could still move abroad without a fee. Players under 24 - whether in or out of contract - would be subject to transfer fees, as would players under contract over the age of 24. Those out of contract and over 24 would be able to move without a fee.

Uefa would like to have such a system - which is based on a scheme that has operated successfully in France for several years - in place across the whole of Europe.

The Professional Footballers' Association and most clubs in England support the move, although there may be some objections from those clubs with several players out of contract this summer. The PFA fears that another

test case could destroy the transfer system in its entirety. In Scotland, for example, an Airdrie player, Chris Honour, is as manager of Nottingham challenging the validity of his contract through the courts.

The Scottish PFA prefers a cut-off point at the age of 21 rather than 24 and will seek its memhers' opinions over the next fortnight.

Many of Scotland's leading

players - for example. Davie Rohertson the Rangers lefthack - are out of contract this summer and could become prime targets for English clubs.



Tufnell completes easy win

MARK BALDWIN

reports from Palmerston North NZ Select XI 138 & 176 England 427-8 dec England win by an Innings & 113 runs

England's winter woes are slowly being put behind them in New Zealand, with Phil Tufnell taking 5 for 58 to spearhead a convincing innings and 113-run victory against the New Zealand Select XI here yesterday.

Yorkshire's 21-year old pace bowler, Chris Silverwood, also staked a big daim for a place in next week's first Test. The New Zealand coach. Steve Rixon. admitted afterwards that he was the one with the headaches.

English spirits were also lifted by the sight of their wicketkeeper Jack Russell, fielding in place of flu victim Craig White. making a run out from cover. The Select XI were finally have put him ahead of the disappointing Andy Caddick in the Test stakes, while Tufnell's continued success on what is seen to be a rehabilitation tour could leave England's selectors with a tricky choice between him and Robert Croft in Auckland. England leave Palmerston

Silverwood's 3 for 29, from

three impressive spells, looks to

North for Hamilton, for a final Test warm-up four-day match against Northern Districts, with

Final day of four: England won loss NEW ZEALAND SELECT XI - First lumings 138 IC Whate 4-15). ENGLAND - First Inchings 427 for 8 dec (A.) Stewart 153, N Hussain 139; D K Morrison 4-81)

NEW ZEALAND SELECT XI - Second has

SM ZEALAND SELECT XI — Second II — Second III —

Falt: 1-6 2-34 3-65 4-75 5-78 6-99 7-99 8-122 9-158. Bowling: Cark 14-1-58-1; Caddick 18-8-24-0; Silverwood 14.1-5-29-3; Tufnet 24-8-58-5.

their confidence high following what their coach David Lloyd described as "a very professional, aggressive performance".

Russell will not play against Northern Districts - he is travelling to Auckland to gain some alternative match practice by turning out for a club side. Takapuna. tomorrow.

This result has not helped me very much." Rixon said. "Despite what happened in Zimbabwe, this England side is full of dangerous players and they are far better prepared than us at the moment for Test cricket."

Rixon has organised a oneinnings, two-day match against Auckland next Monday and Tuesday in a late attempt to get his national squad into some sort of shape for the first Test. Most of New Zealand's leading players have played no first-class matches since returning from their tour of Pakistan in early December.

The Select XI resumed yesterday on 25 for 1, still 264 runs in arrears. Silverwood struck the initial blow in the sixth over by

to Nick Knight at silly point, the hall flying off a leading edge as Horne tried to flick Tufnell to leg. At 75 for 3 came Russell's sprint, pick-up and direct hit to run out Mark Greatbatch for 10, Silverwood returned to have Justin Vaughan smartly held low to his left at second slip by

Knight and then Tufnell teased

out the lower order.

Auckland, 24-28 Jan) From: L K Germon (capt. wkt). 3 A Young, 3 C Pocock, A C Parore, S P Fleming, N J Astle, C L Carrs., J T C Vaughan, D N Parott, S B Doutl, D K Mornson, M J Hastarn. E'Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC. | Canada Square, Canary Wharf. London E14 5DL and printed at Mirror Colour Print. St Albans Road, Watford and Hollinwood Avenue, Oldham, Back issues available from Historic

Newspapers, 01988 \$40370. Friday 17 Jaguary 1997 Registered as newspaper with the Post Office

A CABLE & WIRITESS COMPAN

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

lovely with that European Cup." Clough, who resigned

Forest in 1993 after winning

eight trophies, also denied he was seriously ill during a

recent spell in hospital. "I

had a knee operation that

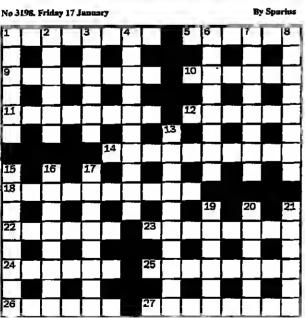
set me back a wee bit, but

if people want to write about me at death's door,

good luck to them. I hope

everybody feels as good as

I feel" Photograph: Sky News



ACROSS One day, items to be translated will include Old and Middle English (8)

Gap where river enters sandy area (6) Traditionally crafted by one providing personal service. 26 Mixed drink is quick and

we're told (8) 10 Gland surrounded by healthy muscle (6) 11 Iris makes wonderful crum

pets (8) 12 Shampoo container's something of a pain, in a 14 Casual garment decorated

with beads? (10) 18 Words for television plugs? 22 Articles penned by hishop.

indeed (6)

23 Where film's presumably to 6 be seen behind closed doors (2.6) 24 Student read out recipe in

food store (6) 25 Exemption for one legislator with integrity (8)

convenient (6) 27 Since art's subtle, it's more revealing (8)

DOWN Doctrine introduced by school leads to split (6) Feeding-trough from Bavaria, maybe, with inter-

changeable parts (6) New York broad often in the soup? (6) Psychic given acknowledge- 21 Long, weary shift for barment in radio broadcasts man? (6) ment in radio broadcasts



Try again last two parts of exercise - you'll need to oractise (8) Give weapons to presiding officer, taking no active

that's apt to get you lost (8)

Cypriot man misrepresented by Macaulay, for instance? (10) 15 Bowling when everyone's

in protective gear (8) 16 State coach (8) 17 Clergyman always having to tear around (8) Planet finally completes a

revolution (6) 20 Tuscan family seen by the sea here in France (6)

dismissed for 176 an hour after lunch, with the end being delayed only by some lusty late hitting from Danny Morrison. the wicker. Matthew Horne fell

Scots lose McKenzie

Rugby Union CHRIS HEWETT

reports from Edinburgh

All Scottish eyes were on Gregor Townsend yesterday as the prodigiously gifted midfield playmaker strove manfully to shake off the effects of a strained neck muscle in time for tomorrow's Five Nations match with Wales at Murrayfield. As it turned out, the panic was centred on the wrong man; while Townsend showed signs of improvement under treatment, Kevin McKenzie, the efferves-

cent hooker from Stirling County, was fighting a losing hattle against neck problems of his own. McKenzie, an ever-present in the Scottish side since the start I last year's tournament, was in severe pain with a damaged disc and withdrew on doctor's advice. Graham Ellis, of Currie, wins a

first cap as his replacement. The Scots could ill afford a weakening of their already suspect front row; while Dave Hilton, the loose-head prop from Bath, is now a seasoned front-row campaigner, Matti

Stewart, the Northampton tight-head, is still an interna-tional novice. No one would describe McKenzic as an imposing physical specimen - at 5ft 6in and less than 15 stones, he is the smallest Test hooker in world rughy - but equally, no one could deny that he punches his weight at the top level.

News of Mckenzie's injury

reached the Welsh camp as they flew into Edinburgh last night. Jon Humphreys, the Welsh captain, was diplomatic when questioned about the absence of his direct opponent "I understand Ellis is a very good player," he said - hut he added: "I came up against McKenzie last year and found him an extremely tough competitor. In international rugby, the individual contests tend to he pretty even but I remember the 1996 game against the Scots in Cardiff as being very hard in

the front row. At least the Scots were optimistic of Townsend's chances of turning out. Duncan Hodge, the uncapped goal kicker from Watsonians, was still with the squad last night after his precaution-

ary promotion from the A team, hut the feeling at Murrayfield was that the back division would appear tomorrow as selected. Nine tenths of the Scottish

rugby public appear to believe that Townsend should play at outside-half rather than outside-centre, but Kevin Bowring. the Welsh coach, was wary of questioning the logic of the home selectors in putting so much space between their most exciting attacking weapon and the forwards at the heart of the

You ask me if it's a relief that Gregor will not be wearing the stand-off's shirt, but I'm not so sure it's good news for us," he said. "He's a threat wherever he plays on the pitch and we are well aware of the damage he can cause out wide.

"What I do know is that the Scottish coaches have worked very hard on Craig Chalmers, a very experienced outside-half in his own right, and they helieve he can move the ball wide at the right times. It's a formidable proposition with both Chalmers and Townsend involved." Ireland's new coach, page 27

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